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25 October 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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PETROBRAS PRESIDENT, ENERGY TECHNICIANS DISPUTE OIL SUPPLY

Ueki Foresees Adequate Stock

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Sep 83 p 23

/Text/ During a deposition at the Transportation Commission of Congress which lasted 5 hours, Petrobras President Shigeaki Ueki yesterday guaranteed that the present stock of oil derivatives will supply the nation for 85 days. He added that rationing of gasoline would be the last alternative, one that would only occur if World War III erupted, and said that the country is not depending on the multinational oil corporations to supply the market and fulfill the export goals of derivatives. Nevertheless, he announced that he will reinitiate negotiations with the multinational corporations in an effort to buy oil from them with their financing.

The president of Petrobras admitted that there will be future difficulties in the national supply of gasoline if Brazil declares a unilateral moratorium on its foreign debt. He added that rationing is not a good policy, and feels that even though it is the 18th highest priced in the world, gasoline is still cheap.

To support his claims that the subsidy of oil does not run a risk and that the difficulties with the financing to buy oil are not that serious, Ueki said that what Petrobras is to receive, including its stock of derivatives, is greater than its present debts of US\$4 billion relating to the purchase of oil and equipment overseas. The value of the derivatives to be exported this year, according to Ueki, will reach US\$1.6 billion, which represents an increase of over 200 percent when compared to the exports in 1980.

Ueki said that the present stock of oil derivatives is 60 million barrels, "an adequate level, since it corresponds to the minimum cost of maintaining the stock, without substantially affecting the supply." He guaranteed that the importation contracts guarantee the subsidy until the end of the year, and reported that importations that need to be made during the first quarter of 1984 will be negotiated starting next month.

Ueki said that the expectations of the importation negotiations for 1984 are high, even though they will require a larger number of trips overseas by the directors of Petrobras to give detailed explanations regarding the economic situation of the country. These trips "will function as press releases, detailing all financial difficulties."

As far as national production is concerned, Ueki guaranteed that the daily average will be 341,000 barrels this year, reaching a peak of 400,000 b/d by the end of December. By the end of 1984, production should reach a peak of 500,000 b/d with an average for the year of 420,000 b/d.

Ueki defended himself in the commission from accusations made by representatives Tidei de Lima of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Sao Paulo (PMDB-SP) and Paulo Mincarone, of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul (PMDB-RS), stating that he supported the enrichment of some groups benefitting from the sale of Petrobras stock when they were low, followed by an immediate overvaluation of the stock after the sale. This was said to benefit many people, including Colbery do Couto e Silva, the son of the ex-minister Head of the Civil Cabinet of the President of the Republic. Ueki said the speculation in the company's stock was made by the stock applicants themselves.

Technicians Question Ueki's Figures

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Sep 83 p 46

Text Technicians from the Ministry of Mines and Energy yesterday answered the claims made by Petrobras President Shigeaki Ueki last Thursday at the Transportation Commission of Congress, where he said the average daily production of national oil will reach 341,000 barrels. The technicians explained that in order to reach that average, it would be necessary for the wells to have been producing 383,300 b/d as of yesterday. Since production 350,000 b/d, they feel that the average for the year will be around 335,000 b/d, including wells that are expected to go into operation by December.

The technicians said that to attain a daily average of 335,000 barrels, 25,000 fewer than the goal established by the Minister of Mines and Energy, daily production would have to be 362,600 b/d as of yesterday. They admitted, vaguely, that the goal of 341,000 b/d for 1983 announced by Petrobras President Shigeaki Ueki would only be possible if Ueki is keeping the startup dates of the new oil wells a secret.

The daily production average for 1983 is presently 332,000 b/d, which is 65,000 b/d more than last year. The technicians did not answer the statement made by Ueki stating that the production peak for the end of the year would reach 400,000 b/d. They did find it odd, however, that Ueki said the daily average for 1984 would be 420,000 b/d after he announced that the peak production for 1984 would be 500,000 b/d. "If the daily production at the beginning of the year is 400,000 b/d, and production near the end of the year will be 500,000 b/d, Petrobras is going to have to hold the tap to achieve a low average of only 420,000 b/d," said the technicians.

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CSO: 3342/2

PETROBRAS OFFICIALS AIR DISAGREEMENT ABOUT OIL SUPPLY

Official Warns of Credit Problems

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Sep 83 p 24

/Text/ Carlos Sant'Anna, marketing director of Petrobras, yesterday said that Mexico has "nothing to complain about to Brazil" relating to the lack of payment on oil purchases which were revealed by the press yesterday. According to Sant'Anna, there is no basis for the reports that Mexico is refusing to increase the amount sold to Brazil from 60,000 b/d to 80,000 b/d "because that was an agreement between the two presidents of the countries," Joao Figueiredo and Miguel de la Madrid, made during the former's visit.

Carlos Sant'Anna added that "in fact, Mexico owes Petrobras close to US\$2 million, and we are not too worried about the 20,000 b/d, because we have other places to buy it." Stressing that Petrobras is a traditional buyer of Mexican oil, "even the low grade oil," Sant'Anna also denied that Brazil could be jeopardized by the fact that Mexico is selling oil to other markets, such as South Korea and Japan.

He also reported that Petrobras considers negotiations with the multinationals for the purchase of oil closed. According to him, Texaco and Chevron renewed their existing supply contracts of 30,000 and 40,000 b/d respectively, with an average term of 120 days. He stressed the support given by Shell close to a month ago "when the stocks plunged to a dangerous level due to the detaining of a tanker with 220 tons of oil in the Persian Gulf, due to credit problems." "Shell rerouted one of its shipments to aid Brazil," said Sant'Anna. He also pointed out that, at the time, the negotiations with the multinationals were not successful because they did not offer any incentives, lacking even prices and market terms.

He admitted that as far "as the purchases of oil for next year are concerned, they are an illusion," and the new contracts, which are renewed automatically in the case of traditional suppliers, will be initiated next October. The director of Petrobras said "our suppliers, such as the Arab countries, China and the Soviet Union, among others, are willing to maintain their supplies." According to him, existing stocks within Brazilian territory allow for 35-40 days of consumption, and added to stocks in transit, they will allow for 85 days of consumption, which today is about 950,000 b/d.

Official Worries About Oil Supply

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Sep 83 p 24

Text The marketing director of Petrobras, Carlos Sant'Anna, after hearing that the president of the company had denied his previous statements which had stated that the oil stocks had reached "dangerous levels," said yesterday that he considered the controversy a "problem of semantics" and a result of the president's concern over the "headlines of the newspapers, that gave the false impression that the country is in no condition to pay its suppliers."

Sant'Anna confirmed that he had to ask Shell for a shipment of oil, but added that "if it hadn't been Shell, it could have been any other company, because we had several offers. But if the oil had not come, it would have been more serious than a very strong concern, for our stocks could have readied reach an intolerably low level."

He also confirmed that the request made to Shell was made at the same time as a retention of two simultaneous normal shipments of oil bound for Petrobras, which had previously been retained because of price problems.

Ueki Denies Problems

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Sep 83 p 24

Text Shigeaki Ueki, president of Petrobras, yesterday denied statements made at a press conference by his marketing director, Carlos Sant'Anna that Brazilian oil stocks had reached "dangerous levels." In spite of the denial, Ueki did admit, as Sant'Anna had said, that close to a month ago, Petrobras was forced to request an extra shipment of oil from Shell, which rerouted one of its ships bound for the Northern Hemisphere for that purpose. "I deny reports that the stocks are low, and I guarantee that the supply of oil and its derivatives for the country is guaranteed," said Ueki. "We did in fact buy oil from Shell, but I would like to stress that during the same period we sold three shipments of condensed oil to Japan, which proves our lack of concern where the stocks are concerned. If they had been so low as to threaten the internal consumption we would not have exported any," said Ueki.

"You gentlemen (of the press) are speaking too much with DEPIN (Department of Industrial Production of Petrobras) personnel," said Ueki. "They are refinery men, who like to see their tanks full. They cannot evaluate the overall situation of the oil stocks based on the fact that the refinery is receiving a little less raw-material," he added.

The president of Petrobras added that the crisis is not oil, but rather one of financing, and no oil company in the world is going to increase its stock because of the high interest that must be paid to finance it. "On the contrary, they are reducing their stocks, just like Petrobras," he said. According to Ueki, the interest the company must pay for the present stocks is US\$1 million per day. These stocks, along with the volume in transit and that on hand and the oil derivatives, is enough for 85-90 days, which "is perfectly compatible with the level needed for the country." According to Ueki, oil continues to

to be the highest priority of the Central Bank in terms of foreign purchases. "And the payment is insured," he said.

As far as the situation of Petrobras in the third letter of intention sent by the Brazilian Government to the International Monetary Fund, Ueki confirmed that the company suggested the Secretary of Planning (SEPLAN) calculate its investments at a rate of 135 percent inflation and not less than 100 percent which the company had initially proposed. "I'm not going to dismiss anyone," he added.

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PETROLEUM DERIVATIVES USE DOWN 5.9 PERCENT

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Sep 83 p 22

Text The national consumption of petroleum derivatives fell 5.9 percent between January and August of this year as compared with the same period last year. Consumption for the first 8 months of this year was 953,200 b/d as compared to 1,012,600 b/d last year. On the other hand, the national consumption of alcohol rose 52.2 percent during the same period, with the average going from 58,400 b/d to 88,900 b/d. The increase in the consumption of hydrated alcohol was 85.9 percent, and the increase in anidro alcohol, which is mixed with gasoline, was 24.8 percent. During the same period, the national production of oil increased 24.2 percent, with the average jumping from 259,700 b/d in 1982 to 322,500 b/d this year.

This information was released yesterday by the Ministry of Mines and Energy through statistics showing the national consumption of fuels. These statistics showed that during the period of January to August, the consumption of gasoline fell 15.1 percent, of combustible oil fell 19.1 percent, of diesel fuel fell 0.8 percent and of asphalts fell 31.1 percent. During that period, the only fuels to show an increase in usage were liquefied petroleum gas, which increased 8.4 percent, and napthalenes and petrochemical gases, which rose 30.9 percent. These two products are the ones that receive the most subsidy from the consumers of oil derivatives, such as gasoline and diesel fuel. As far as the reduction of consumption of oil derivatives and the increase in the use of alcohol, as well as the substitutions of oil for electrical energy and natural gas, the need for imported oil fell 16.2 percent during the first 8 months of the year when compared to the same period last year. The daily average of imported oil was reduced from 752,900 to 630,700 barrels.

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BRIEFS

TIERRA BLANCA'S FUTURE--According to explanations from Elf Aquitaine engineers who accompanied a group of journalists invited to get acquainted with the area of its operations, the benefits which petroleum exploration and exploitation have left to the people of Alta Verapaz and El Peten in the company's operations area is seen, at first glance, as only an exhausted well like Tierra Blanca, but a well can be reactivated so that its production returns to normal. An official of the defunct Minerals and Hydrocarbons Bureau said that it is not certain that the well "Tierra Blanca" is exhausted. According to explanations furnished by Elf, a recently discovered well starts with a high yield and little by little the yield decreases sometimes to zero which is when it is "exhausted." However, that does not mean that there is no remedy to again restore it and return it to its normal yield. On the tour, there was explained a series of what one might call "remedies" to revive a well and thus we see that a tower was being placed in a spot to pump water and that the oil will flow with greater force. Elf will use 50,000 quetzals in the construction of a center for technical training for the petroleum industry which will operate in Rubelsanto and will eventually build a regional center. The arrival of French instructors who will bring knowledge and technology to the Guatemalans is expected. There is also a scholarship plan which will soon be in force to finance university studies in disciplines related to job requirements. Meanwhile, the workers enjoy other benefits and the company is investing 300,000 quetzals in personal development. [Excerpts] [Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 10 Sep 83 pp 1,10]

NATIONAL OIL PRODUCTION--According to statements made yesterday to the press, executives of companies who have drilled and now exploit this energy source, all the national oil fields are producing 10 million barrels of crude daily. They said that petroleum is processed by extracting from it poisonous gases in a complete cleanser which Elf Aquitaine constructed in Rubensalto. They also said that Chinaja is the best field found so far, since its production is about 3,000 barrels daily, free of water; Rubensanto, which reaches 1,000 barrels; Caribe 1, with 1,000 and Tierra Blanca with a production of 2,000 barrels. The Aquitaine executives said that they are awaiting the new petroleum law, to see whether or not it is appropriate to continue exploration. "It is our wish"--they emphasized--"that the law will facilitate, that it will turn out not to be too strict, because otherwise, there would be no incentive to continue investing in this difficult activity." The engineers said that up to now they have found only thin layers of crude petroleum, in other areas, probably--they explained--

because there could be many geological faults. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 8 Sep 83 p 2] 9678

TIERRA BLANCA PRODUCTION--Engineer Alejandro Contreras Bonilla, secretary of Energy and Mines, said that the oil well, "Tierra Blanca," in El Peten jurisdiction, has increased its daily production to 2,700 barrels of crude. That well is located 15 kilometers from the Mexican border. The official from Energy and Mines stated also that this well has overcome its problems and its production has been increasing little by little and at this time reaches 2,700 barrels daily and an increase is expected soon. [Text] [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 2 Sep 83 p 6] 9678

OIL EXPORTS FOR 1983--The office of the secretary of Energy and Mines stated yesterday that so far this year, ten oil shipments from Honduras have been made to the United States market. They said that all shipments have been made by the French oil company Elf Aquitaine de Guatemala, S.A. They added that total crude oil exported came to 436,615 barrels valued at 133,223,577 quetzals. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Sep 83 p 9] 9678

CSO: 3248/1278

POLL SHOWS LUDER AHEAD OF ALFONSIN BY NINE POINTS

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 30 Sep 83 pp 26-30

[Article by Tabare Areas]

[Text] In the fifth political poll of SOMOS, Italo Argentino Luder was nine points ahead of Raul Alfonsin, reversing the previous trend. The Peronist [Justicialist Party, PJ] candidate consolidated his position in the interior while in the large urban centers the score is more even. The undecided voters amount to 18 percent of the total. Alende is third with three percent of the votes.

It is an unquestionable reality in Argentinean politics that the polarization between the Peronists and the supporters of Alfonsin is not an invention of the journalists. Italo Argentino Luder and Raul Alfonsin received a total of 69 percent of the votes in this poll. On the other hand, Luder has a commanding lead for the first time in the opinion polls taken up to now, leaving Alfonsin behind. This result was strongly influenced by the votes cast in the interior of the nation where Luder received 42 percent of the votes while in the area of the capital and Greater Buenos Aires his total figure is less than 34 percent. Alfonsin received an overall average of 30 percent of the votes, staying at the same level he achieved in previous polls as well as gaining all the votes which Fernando de la Rua received before the Alfonsin-Martinez slate was launched. Third place is now held by the undecided voters in the 30 October elections. Trailing well behind in fourth place--third in the order of the candidates--is the intransigent Oscar Alende.

Since the beginning of 1983, SOMOS and A and C have been working systematically on the evolution of the Argentines' electoral preferences as the time draws near for the culmination on 30 October. This fifth poll has certain characteristics which differentiate it from the previous ones. Basically, they are the following:

This was the first time that the poll was made with the complete definite list of candidates for the presidency of the country. Therefore, instead of approximations by way of preferences by party and/or various alternative candidates of a single party, the voters had a definite candidate on whom to express an opinion.

The scope of the polls was considerably broadened: in the earlier polls they usually included three large cities of the interior, in addition to the Federal Capital and Greater Buenos Aires. This time, five cities were polled: Rosario, Sante Fe-Parana, Cordoba, Mendoza and Tucuman.

The margin of error remains very low considering the complexity of the subject under investigation (plus or minus three percent) so this has little effect on the projection of the results of the two main candidates who polarize the voters' attention.

The sampling represents about 58 percent of the citizens eligible to vote next 30 October.

The poll began immediately after the closing of the Justicialist Party [PJ] Congress which nominated Italo Argentino Luder as Peronist candidate and the poll ended on 14 September 1983.

In contrast to other preliminary polls, this one, which SOMOS assigned to A and C, is based on interviews which represent proportionately all segments of the voter register: by occupation, sex, age, level of education and area of residence.

A and C employs a system derived from the association it has with the U.S. firm Louis Harris and Associates, public opinion poll specialists.

The Numbers

The total sampling gave the following percentages: Luder, 39 percent; Alfonsin, 30 percent; undecided, 18 percent; Alende, 3 percent; Manrique, 2 percent, blank, 2 percent; no answer, 2 percent; Frigerio, 1 percent; Iscaro, 1 percent; Martinez Raymonda, 0.05 percent; Alsogaray, 0.05 percent; others, 1 percent.

The charts show the percentages only down to the figures on Alende since below that number the statistical margin or error increases considerably, which we endeavored to avoid.

Compared with previous polls, the gains made by Italo Luder over Raul Alfonsin are notable. They were consolidated from the moment his nomination for president by the JP was announced. On the other hand, his nomination caused the disappearance from the election scene of the many candidates who previously were running for nomination.

The undecided voters dropped 10 percent. This is another important political point in the present predictions: they dropped from the first place to the third place, switching places with Luder. Meanwhile, Alfonsin remains in second place and Alende is in forth place, far behind the first two. Further behind, and with really low percentages, are the nominees for the center-right: Manrique, Frigerio, Martinez Raymonda, Alsogaray and others. The candidate of the PC [Communist Party of Argentina] (a party which will cast its votes for the Peronists) had received one percent.

Concerning the degree of acceptance of the candidates in proportion to the level of education of the voters in the poll, there are important variations from the previous polls. For example, Luder doubled the percentages obtained by his party in the previous poll among the university group; he rose from 16 to 29 percent among the voters who completed their secondary education; he remains about the same among voters who did not complete secondary school and rose about 5 percent among the primary education group.

Alfonsin did not change much from the previous poll with respect to these various segments except for the primary education group in which he climbed from 17 to 23 percent. As to the undecided group, the sampling says it has dropped in all educational segments. Alende had an increase from 4 to 8 percent among those who had not completed secondary school but in the other segments his percentages remained the same.

In the analysis by occupation of the heads of family, Luder showed a striking increase in the segments of businessmen, merchants, professionals, employees and unskilled workers. In comparison to the preceding poll, Raul Alfonsin increased his percentages among businessmen and professionals. Among the undecided, the unskilled and skilled workers make up the highest percentages.

Sex and Age

Differentiating by sex and age, the comparative analysis of men and women voters indicates that the percentage of undecided is greater among women (22 percent against 15 percent). Luder's percentage rose to 42 percent of the men against 37 percent of the women. Surprisingly, Luder's overall total of 39 percent rises in women's sectors aged 35/44, 45/54, and 55/65 years. (In these segments the percentage among men also increases.)

Alfonsin received the highest percentage among women in the 24/36 years of age segment (36 percent)--this is the only segment in which he has a higher percentage than Luder. The radical leader received the highest percentage among men in the 55/65 years of age segment. The highest level among the undecided was among women in the 18 to 22 years of age group (33 percent). Among men, the lowest number of undecided are those in the 45/54 and 55/65 years of age groups. The poll as to the location of voters yielded indicative data which may be significant when the time comes for the Electoral College. The data reveals that the differences between Luder and Alfonsin are greater in the interior than in the capital and Greater Buenos Aires.

Luder increased his percentage in the interior to 42 percent; while Alfonsin received 29 percent. Here the difference between them is 13 points while in Greater Buenos Aires it is only 4 points. One must recall that under the electoral system that will function after 30 October, provinces with less population and economic development will send a very important number of presidential electors. And if it is true that Luder is broadening his support base in the more backward sectors, he will be running with a noteworthy advantage over the radical candidate in the marginal and agricultural areas in the interior. Alfonsin obtains similar percentages in Greater Buenos Aires and the interior while Luder's numbers are more disparate from one area to the other.

The New Vote

Many of the media speculate on the impact of the election on the youths who come of age and go to the voting booths for the first time. Here also is a curious fact: Luder received 42 percent among voters who had voted in the past and 34 percent among those who will vote for the first time on 30 October. In contrast, Alfonsin received more votes from persons who had never voted in a presidential election (30 percent) than from those who had previously voted (29 percent).

The broad sector of undecided increases among those who have never voted (32 percent) in comparison with those who have previously voted (16 percent). The intransigent Oscar Alende has similar percentages: 3 and 4 percent, respectively.

As a result of the polarization between Luder and Alfonsin, the remaining candidates lost practically half of their voters in comparison with a few months ago. Alende, following the disappearance of many Justicialist candidates, became the third candidate in the order of those mentioned but with only a distant 3 percent. Contrary to what was expected to be the case after the definite nomination of candidates, the percentage of undecided voters continues at a very high level (18 percent) which is even higher in the women's sector of the voters (22 percent). In the previous poll, that percentage was about 28 percent. Therefore, in general terms, one may say that those 10 percent of the voters who were undecided a few months ago turned mostly toward the PJ which is the only party which increased the level of votes in such a large proportion.

We also have to consider the fact that those supporting Luder are mostly men in comparison with women (42 vs 37 percent) and it is in this segment of women where there continues to be a higher percentage of undecided voters: 22 percent of the women against only 15 percent of the men.

It is also noteworthy that the voting for Alfonsin is very similar in the group of urban centers sampled (the capital and six large cities in the interior) since he received an average, in these two major groupings, of about 30 percent of the votes. Moreover, there is confirmation of the trend indicated in the most recent studies of SOMOS to the effect that Luder receives most support among the worker sectors--51 percent of the unskilled workers and 41 percent of the skilled workers. Besides, for the first time in the polls made to date, he gained more votes than Alfonsin in the employees segment, while he has improved--although still in the minority--in the segment of businessmen, merchants and professionals.

This shows an advance of the PJ candidate in the middle sectors of the population (in regard to occupation) but consisting primarily of citizens with only a primary school education or without any education. It is important to stress that Luder surpasses his own average (39 percent) only in the electoral segments with primary education, where he received 47 percent of the votes.

During July and August, the progress of the election campaigns led to a decision on the part of 35 percent of the voters who had not decided up to the end of June. An important reason for this was the selection of the PJ slate, since Luder appears in the poll as capitalizing on many of the undecided voters.

The uncertainty which persists as to the final choice of the still undecided 18 percent of the voters will be cleared up and will be in proportion to the success of the campaign activities of the two parties, primarily in the sectors with a low level of education, especially of the female sex, which remain numerically the greatest among the undecided. In view of the polarization of the voters, that 13 percent may still decide the election in favor of one or the other candidate though it appears that the course of action the undecided voters will take will be guided by those around them, family and friends.

9204
CSO: 3348/9

BIGGER HARVESTS EXPECTED IN PARANA, RIO GRANDE DO SUL**Parana Production**

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Sep 83 p 26

[Text] The soybean acreage in Parana should increase by 130,000 hectares, with a growth in production of almost a half-million tons, according to the latest estimates of the Department of Rural Economy of the Secretariat of Agriculture. The increase in soybean acreage was limited by the shortage of seeds, which in some regions in the state were going for as much as 35,000 cruzeiros per sack, much higher than expected in the cost calculations. Soybean production is forecast at 4.6 million to 4.8 million tons.

The high price for soybean seed caused many producers to continue to plant corn, which will not lose acreage, as had been expected. Corn acreage should stand at 3.27 million hectares, with an estimated production of 5.6 million to 6 million tons--the same estimate as last year, which was not achieved because of rains in the south and drought in the northeast. Beans and cotton should lose acreage: a reduction of 18 percent in the case of cotton and between 4 and 5 percent for beans. Of all the crops in Parana, sugar cane is expected to gain the most acreage next year (23 percent), reaching 130,000 hectares.

Parana should produce 5.5 million sacks of coffee, which is considered very good, particularly given the weather problems and the advanced age of the state's coffee plantations, which urgently need renovation. The state government itself is proposing a renovation plan, which will be carried out with the assistance of the municipal governments in the coffee region.

Rio Grande do Sul

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Oct 83 p 20

[Text] Next year's bean, rice, corn and soybean crops in Rio Grande do Sul should be the largest in the history of the state's agricultural production. According to the JORNAL DA FEIRA, of the CODECON [expansion unknown], the estimate comes from technicians of the Organization of Cooperatives of Rio Grande do Sul. As the major incentives to the farmers, they point to the minimum price levels, the good weather conditions after the floods in the region and the higher price quotations on the domestic and foreign markets.

Cyro Dias da Costa, president of the organization, also notes the euphoria of the Gaucho producers and the drop in the North American harvest of grains and oleagenous crops, estimated at 100 million tons.

GOLD PRODUCTION TOTALS 24 TONS FROM JANUARY THROUGH AUGUST

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Sep 83 p 31

[Text] Production from gold fields controlled by the DNPM (National Department of Mineral Production) was 5.342 tons last month, bringing total production from January through August to 24 tons, according to statistics released yesterday by the DNPM. Agency technicians reported that this production confirms the expectations of Cesar Cals, minister of mines and energy, that his estimate of an official gold production of 40 tons this year will be exceeded by 20 tons, bearing in mind that the gold mined in the first 6 months usually represents only 25 percent of annual production.

According to the technicians, production from the gold fields and mines this year should reach about 60 tons, only 8 tons of which should be produced by the mining companies. They explained that this official production figure represents only 50 percent of actual gold production, considering the theft and smuggling that occurs with half the production by the prospectors and the DNPM's inability to maintain stricter control.

The gold fields at Serra Pelada, which will be closed on 15 November when mechanized mining will be initiated by the Companhia Vale do Rio Doce, presented the greatest production this year, with 8.821 tons. In second and third place were the Tapejos and Cumaru fields, with 5.311 and 3.657 tons, respectively. The 49,000 gold miners who are registered at Serra Pelada should be transferred to these two fields, as proposed by Minister Cals.

The fourth largest gold production this year was recorded at the Madeira River, with 923,822 kilograms. This is the most difficult area for gold prospecting and the one with the largest incidence of fatalities among prospectors. The prospectors search for gold at the bottom of the river, without observing the strict safety standards; at Rio Madeira the death rate averages six per day.

6362

CSO: 3342/6

FORMER CENTRAL BANK HEAD SEES YEAR END INFLATION AT 160 PERCENT

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Sep. 83 p 21

[Text] Carlos Brandao, former president of the Central Bank, declared yesterday that the government has lost control of inflation, which could jeopardize the goals of economic recovery established in the third letter of intent signed with the International Monetary Fund providing for a reduction in the rate of inflation to 5 percent [per month] by December.

He added that the failure to take stricter measures has meant that inflation has continued to rise, such that a rate of close to 12 percent is expected for September. (According to another source, inflation reached 12.4 percent and the Wholesale Price Index (IPA) reached 14 percent). "This year we are going to see inflation go higher than 160 percent, and even that would be commendable," Brandao stressed. He is currently president of the ANDIMA (National Association of Open Market Institutions).

In Brandao's opinion, the goals established in the letter of intent will not have any real credibility unless the government decides on immediate structural reforms in the nation's economy. Primary among these would be to make the Central Bank an "authentic instrument of monetary policy," freeing it from development activity, which allows it to issue money in the name of the National Treasury, compromising the monetary budget, which should also be eliminated.

"Then I could have faith in the goals pledged to the IMF, since in the letter of intent much more stress is placed on reducing the public debt than on controlling monetary expansion," said the ANDIMA president.

Correction

Despite his fears about the development of the inflationary process, Brandao felt it was proper to set a rate of 9.5 percent for the monetary correction in the month of October.

In his opinion, this rate would allow investors to continue to put their money in fixed income notes or in savings accounts.

"Despite the very high inflation, in any event, a monetary correction of 9.5 percent will motivate any investor, even if the inflation rate in October goes above this 9.5 percent."

Even so, he was fearful about the worsening economic crisis in Brazil, to the point of declaring that there is a very serious social problem, with unpredictable results, and that "anyone who is not worried about this would have to be crazy."

He added that the recent increases in the interest rate on "overnight" (short term) loans determined by the Bank of Brazil, which was listed yesterday at 14 percent per month, reflect the fixing of the monetary correction at 9.5 percent for October, since if the interest rate remained at low levels the trade in these loans on the open market would be jeopardized.

6362

CSO: 3342/6

NAVY MINISTER DISCUSSES IMPACT OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Sep 83 p 6

[Text] Brasilia--Today in Rio, during the launching ceremony for the training ship "Brasil," Navy Minister Maximiano da Fonseca will emphasize in his order of the day that the Brazilian Navy is also suffering the effects of the economic-financial situation which Brazil is experiencing.

"If we were not having financial problems and hence could begin construction of more corvettes, not only would the use of domestic material be substantially increased, since our industry has the capacity for it, but it would also help to absorb the currently idle capacity of our private shipyards," the minister observes.

He also notes that the current financial problems are preventing the Navy from initiating the program of reequipping the Navy to the desired extent. "Even to carry out the modest part of the program now underway," says Admiral Maximiano, "required not only great effort from everyone but also the support of the most excellent senior president of the republic. Not only understanding the importance to Brazil of what the Navy is realistically attempting, but clearly assessing the priorities in solving the great national problems, the president did not hesitate to approve this first and modest phase of our program." According to the minister, the training ship "Brasil" goes to sea with 89 percent of its material produced domestically; it even carries sophisticated equipment developed entirely in Brazil. According to Maximiano, the four corvettes, with over 50 percent domestic materials, "are proof of our domestic capacity to conceive, design and build the modern vessels essential to equip our Navy adequately."

6362
CSO: 3342/6

CABINET SHAKEUP, POLITICAL SITUATION ANALYZED

Jarpa's Mission

Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 17 Aug 83 pp 8-9

Article by Carmen Gardewig

Text In only 1 week, Chile has become a different country.

The rapidity with which political events have taken place and their magnitude can be determined by the amount of space devoted to them in the communications media. One day's news reports are exceeded the following day.

It seems that quite some time has gone by since the new cabinet took its oath of office during a tense and solemn ceremony in the hall of honor of La Moneda. But it has been only a week since Sergio Onofre Jarpa became the most important civilian of the moment. And as such, with the tremendous responsibility of moving the political line forward without a backward step in what has been announced up to now, but at the same time building a protective framework which will ensure that the foundation consisting of the democratic principles will not be destroyed at the first opportunity. For that reason, the selection of his colleagues was vital for the new Minister of Interior.

He needed a new staff of distinguished figures who were willing to give a distinctive imprint to the management of the government, in accordance with the political program which Jarpa is prepared to implement. Figures who, at the same time, each in his own speciality, would give a feeling of confidence so as to assemble the greatest number of adherents to their proposals, a priority task in the government before the taking of definite positions.

If to this picture we add the fact that the presence of the armed forces in the new cabinet has taken on a symbolic character--as it was stated by General Matthei--as they have been reduced to one representative for each branch of the service, it is clear that there is a firm desire to turn in the direction of the civilian sector.

Jarpa and his team have done some things that seemed impossible, in spite of the enormous emotional burden entailed in taking office 24 hours before the sorry events of Thursday and Friday took place. (see separate report)

No one denies that Sergio Onofre Jarpa is a politician who also has traits which give full assurance to the armed forces: he is an anticomunist par excellence and a follower of the Portalian spirit. Two convictions enable him to advance his plan of action, which envisions really decisive steps.

What are these steps? The holding of a plebiscite to approve constitutional reform resulting from the formulation of the political laws, including not ruling out the possibility of electing a congress before 1990. And, prior to this major step, the start-up of the political parties, voter registration and the qualifications tribunal.

Shared Responsibility

If after analysis of the respective laws the conclusion is reached that they should be put in force before 1989, Jarpa has stated categorically that this will be done. Therefore, the government's responsibility for the proper implementation of this political program is also combined with the great responsibility of the opposition.

It remains to be seen, when the invitation which the Council of State will extend to political figures of the opposition to participate in the preparation of these laws is firmed up, whether or not these political figures will accept.

And in large measure, the destiny of Chile depends upon this decision. Because, as Minister Jarpa told ERCILLA, the political laws have already been set in motion and will move forward with or without the cooperation of all those who are called upon to help.

Without a doubt, in opposition sectors there is not the same feeling today as a week ago when all the points of this democratic opening were made known. But at that time the tragic toll of dead and wounded of the 2 days of protest also was not known. Both events can only serve to call for reflection and a review of the dogmatic positions which have been maintained up to now.

In his second reference to our country in less than 2 days, Pope John Paul II said in Castelgandolfo: "I will pray for a return to the path of fraternity and wisdom," while in Santiago, Monsignor Fresno reminded all of us: "Rulers and ruled, civilians and military men, let us lay down our arms of anger and uncontrolled force; let us root out hatred from our hearts and pause long enough to think."

This last sentence is the central nucleus of what must be urgently done. The government has to think that the steps it has undertaken require quick implementation and a frank open-door policy to listen to and evaluate profoundly what is said by those not in its ranks. The opposition has to think that the entire country is living through a crucial moment, during which no one can neglect his responsibility to help find a real solution.

It is inadmissible for either side to opt for abstention, as then it will be too late to bemoan the mistakes made.

The government has already shown its political cards and has announced that others are yet to be displayed which relate to social and economic matters. Those of the opposition for the moment have limited themselves to the formulation of their opinions without making a statement of the role that is properly theirs in the search for a way out of the crisis. Because the government and the opposition have to courageously face up to the irresponsibility for the country's future.

Broader Position Sought

Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 17 Aug 83 pp 9-10

Interview with Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa by Carmen Gardewig on 12 August 1983 in Santiago

Text In the midst of continuous and intensive meetings which followed one another after the violent incidents on Thursday, Minister of Interior Sergio Onofre Jarpa received ERCILLA on Friday, 12 August at 1200 hours.

He was calm and did not show his enormous concern over the serious nighttime incidents and had not lost his composure after 2 days of intensive journalistic siege. Hours after assuming his post, Jarpa spent more than 60 minutes answering the questions of national and foreign newsmen. Later, an endless chain of interviews, dealing with all imaginable topics, without failing to answer any query, made him the most read about person of the long weekend.

He spoke with ERCILLA for 30 minutes about the possibility of holding a plebiscite, the role of the opposition, the future of the armed forces and the political outlook for 1989.

Question Upon your return from Buenos Aires, you described yourself as a Chilean nationalist. What is the meaning of that definition?

Answer That our political action is oriented exclusively toward Chile's interests, in a broad national sense, which subsumes the best traditions of our homeland in the political sector and that we will be able to determine our own road to the future. The way I put it may be a bit explicit, but it seems to me that the people who read my remarks understood that this was a matter of a Chilean position, with emphasis in this sense on the fact that we do not want to be interfered with by foreign interests or pressures.

Question That definition, then, has no relationship to any nationalist movement there may be in Santiago?

Answer I do not think that--at least on the part of the government--there is an intention to adopt a party position but rather just the opposite: to adopt a position of the broadest scope so that all the currents of public opinion there may be within the framework of a democratic and libertarian system can express themselves.

Question How would you characterize the response which opposition sectors have given to the Pope's letter?

Answer I think that there are sectors in the opposition which are trying to provoke confrontation and violence and that some persons who do not perhaps share that attitude have been signing manifestos which are used later as pretexts for those who trigger shooting and the deaths of people, as has happened, unfortunately; however, I feel they have a very great moral responsibility because of their failure to clarify their position with respect to totalitarian Marxism which, definitely, is the big problem for Chile.

Question Do you think the opposition has received the president's announcements well and will cooperate in their implementation?

Answer I think the public has received them well, which is what interests us, as we cannot be dependent on what is said by a handful of individuals who obviously do not represent public opinion but rather that of one clearly identifiable political sector. But the government in its resolutions and the broad outlines of its policy cannot be hamstrung by what certain leaders say or do not say.

Question What assurances does the opposition have that the announced democratic opening measures will be implemented and not disavowed at the first opportunity?

Answer They have the word of the president of the republic, of the entire cabinet, the commitment which has been made with the Council of State. We are not here to deceive the country but rather to try to resolve problems with the support of all sectors.

Question But public opinion even though it be a minority is being channeled through currents of opinion, through the political parties. If it should happen tomorrow that these political parties do not accede to the government's call to participate in the framing of the organic constitutional laws, will the laws still go forward?

Answer They will still go forward.

Question Will you here then try to gather in that silent majority that is not channelized?

Answer Exactly, because we will definitely have a plebescite so that public opinion can resolve the matter.

Question Do you plan to hold the plebescite no matter what, with the opposition participating in the study of the organic laws?

Answer Exactly.

Question In what manner will this be done?

Answer We have set a course of action here which, in order to shorten some time frames, makes it necessary to hold a plebiscite; because these constitutional laws in a way mean a reform of some provisions of the Constitution.

Question You are taking over the ministry at this time as the authorized spokesman, the man who gives guarantees to a large number of persons. Who do you believe is really going to be the spokesman vis-a-vis the opposition: the Minister of Interior or the Council of State?

Answer In the study of the laws, the Council of State; in anything that has to be done in the political sector, the Ministry of Interior.

Question That is, the government's political initiative is going to continue to be in the Ministry of Interior?

Answer The president of the republic has the initiative; we are limiting ourselves to following the president's orders and to implementing the guidelines he gives us.

Question Is the incorporation into the cabinet of a larger number of civilians only temporary or does it respond to a gradual shift away from the armed forces so that they can assume a role different from the one they have played up until now?

Answer In reality, I think that the appointment of civilian experts to some ministries, as is happening in Housing and Health, is a very important step. And not only to seek the participation of professional or technical sectors but also so we can give the people a feeling of greater participation in the government. That is the wish of the president, to open doors, to open windows, so there will be a transparency to what the government is doing, to the proposals, and so the professional groups will participate, in general all interested parties. I believe that the line will be maintained in that direction.

Question What, then, will be the role of the armed forces in the future?

Answer The fact is that the armed forces are not part of the government; in this regard, I would say that there is a somewhat mistaken emphasis. The government is not the government of the armed forces; this is a constitutional government. It is founded on the existing constitution, and the armed forces are not included within the political framework; they are not part of a political problem in Chile. The armed forces continue to be absolutely independent and professional.

Question How do you envision the political picture in 1989?

Answer That depends upon what we do now. I think that if we are capable of an economic recovery, which I am certain will be initiated in the next few months, and if we are sufficiently effective in the clarification of the political situation, I think that at the end of the current period the country is going to be on a good footing of stability. Then we will have a clear democratic line for the future.

Question And what about the outlook for the armed forces?

Answer I think that some major currents of public opinion are going to be organized within a democratic format, with the commitment to maintain the format. Because here it is not a question of the armed forces' poking their noses in to prevent the country from falling into a totalitarian dictatorship; the civilians have to commit themselves. The game plan we have seen in recent days is an easy one: the armed forces confront the problems and the civilians engage in criticism. Suppose the armed forces go to their garrisons. Who will guarantee the security of the civilians? Who will guarantee that they will not be devastated by vandalism? Therefore, either all of us here commit ourselves to the task or the country is not going to move forward.

Question To whom do you attribute the responsibility for what happened Thursday night?

Answer To the people who are calling for these protest demonstrations and to the fact they are either transforming this into acts of violence or if not planned that way, no doubt the situation is out of their hands and they are being used as a screen by vandalic terrorist elements who acted.

Question What is your opinion about the announcement of new protests?

Answer With these protests the country is not going to recover and we are not going to resolve anything. I hope they think about it and stop their madness.

Man With Experience

Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 17 Aug 83 pp 11-13

Article by M. Isabel Fernandez

Text Who and what the new minister of interior is. His life, his likes and his long career in national life.

Not long ago, when he was asked for a description of himself, he confessed proudly:

"Look, even though it may be hard for you to believe, I am much more of a peasant than a politician. What is more, I do not have the patience to be a politician. I became one under very special circumstances, at a very difficult time, when no one could stand by with his arms crossed at home while the country was falling apart. After the military pronouncement, I definitely distanced myself from party politics."

Those who know him say this is true. That nothing would please him more than to put on his sombrero and peasant clothes and go horseback riding on one of his fine ranch horses which he raises at Villa Alegre, Linares. But circumstances have time and again made him exchange horses and lands for

speeches, political parties and meetings, which were subsequently replaced by important and delicate missions abroad.

Today, as the new cabinet chief and minister of interior, his homesickness for the countryside once more seems to be fading away.

First Steps

Sergio Onofre Jarpa Reyes, 63, who has four children, is a man who is not easy to categorize. His life consists of multiple facets. Born and reared in the countryside (at the Santa Julia, Rengo country estate), he spent the early years of his life far from the city. He learned to read and write as things were done in those days: a "young lady" visited his grandfather's estate in Agua Buena every day.

Shortly thereafter, along with his brother Jorge, he had to bow to another custom of that era: boarding school. He spent 6 years at the San Jose Parochial School, sufficient time for the Salesians to imbue him with rigid discipline that definitely marked his character. He continued his studies at San Pedro Nolasco, but not for very long. His father's serious illness resulted in his taking charge of the estate. After that, his principal activity was agriculture, which later was combined with other activities of a commercial kind: he became an importer of Cadillac automobiles and Cessna airplanes.

He was engaged in these activities when World War II broke out. With map in hand, he followed all of the developments and thus was born his concern for politics.

Later, in 1947, along with Jaime Larrain Garcia-Moreno--a rebel former conservative--and others, he founded the Agrarian Labor Party of which he was elected president of the youth sector. Years later, and after rapid growth, the party disappeared. Jarpa returned to the countryside and left politics, until on the eve of the crucial 1964 election, along with former Minister of State Jorge Prat Echaurren, he founded the National Action Party. This new effort was also short-lived. Prat withdrew his candidacy, and in 1966 the party merged with other political groups giving rise to the National Party. Jarpa assumed the post of vice president and later became the president of the party.

To Defend Democracy

From that moment, his political career was set and he began to take firm steps to defend democracy, as he witnessed its gradual decline. When the Popular Unity government began, he offered himself as a candidate for the Santiago council and was elected in March 1971.

His direct and fierce battle against Marxism made him at once a leader and, as is obvious, an enemy who was considered "highly dangerous" by Allende himself. One year later, in March 1972, he was declared a criminal for having violated the state internal security law. The reason? Jarpa himself gave the

reason when he was released, after paying a fine of 800 escudos: "Everything was reduced to statements I had made which were considered offensive to the thin skin of Minister Vuscovic." What was involved was defense of an industry from expropriation.

His great facility with words and, particularly, the subtle sarcasm he uses to discredit his opponents in various forums are a matter of historical record.

Young people feel especially attracted by his personality. Many of them closed ranks in the National Party inspired by the clarity of Jarpa's thinking and, above all, his extreme courage in defense of his ideas.

His efforts to wipe out Marxism brought him many other dangers. In November 1972, he had to be hospitalized, after being attacked by extremist elements from the State Technical University, which, after preventing his entrance to the campus, spat on him and attacked him with stones and bricks, causing a close encephalocranial traumatism (ECT). Four months later, in March 1973, he was elected senator for Santiago with the second highest majority on his slate.

War On Marxism

After the military pronouncement, Jarpa became an active defender of the new government. As a matter of principle, on his own, he assumed the responsibility for explaining abroad what was happening in the country. In October 1973, he told the newspaper *EL UNIVERSAL* of Caracas:

"The Chilean experience is very important to the continent because for several years there was much propaganda about Chile's being on the road to socialism and the much-touted pluralism and freedom that went with it. It has been demonstrated that that was all a coverup to allow Marxism to gain time and to sink in its claws."

In April 1974, in Washington, when he gave a speech before the seventh conference of the Anticommunist League, he responded "to those who are criticizing us for having rebelled against the Marxist government":

"I asked them," he said, "what did they expect us to do? Did they want us to remain silent while the country was being destroyed? Did they want us to accept the tyranny they (the Marxists) were attempting to impose upon us? To continue down the same road as Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Cuba and so many other countries which were being oppressed by the most inhuman communist tyranny?"

At the end of that year, at the request of the government, he joined the Chilean delegation to the United Nations Assembly. On that occasion, he engaged in a heated interchange of words with the representative of the Soviet Union, who criticized Chile's presence in that assembly. Jarpa did not leave the room and argued that if there were an "intruder" it was the Soviet Union.

He was given later two diplomatic posts. In 1976, Colombia, and in 1978, Argentina. During the second mission, his work was done at one of the most difficult moments in the relations between both countries. Ever cautious and calm he successfully resolved the most varied problems.

Only 2 months ago, he said in ERCILLA that in order to achieve institutional progress it is necessary for the major political forces to define their positions, "particularly as regards the defense of national sovereignty and the fundamental values which are at stake in the face of Marxist penetration."

In spite of this lack of definitions which he notes, he said he is optimistic about the future: "I am convinced that the past few years have provided eloquent lessons. The immense majority of Chileans are confident that the armed forces which worked together in 1973 will be restructured, will clarify their positions and will continue strengthening the democracy which will begin to prevail in the country."

Guzman: Grave Hour

Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 17 Aug 83 p 11

News commentary by Jaime Guzman

Text In the face of the painful and grave events of last week, all of us Chileans must make the dispassionate and objective effort called for by the moment.

No matter what opinion each of us has about the causes of the current economic crisis, no one can seriously deny that it will not be easily and quickly overcome.

This means that the economic problems, as a source of social discontent, will continue for some time.

For that very reason, and without denying the priority need to focus on measures which will stimulate the quickest and soundest recovery possible, it is necessary to have a basic political consensus which will permit confrontation of the current challenge in ways that will distance us from violence-generating polarizations.

It would be impossible to pretend that Marxism is not attempting to take advantage of this crisis to radicalize the political situation to the maximum. That is what suits it in line with its doctrine and practical objectives. This is one certain factor in the equation.

However, what is decisively needed to block it is for our democratic sectors, be they government or opposition sectors, to hammer out a minimal agreement on the basis of the "call for effective dialogue" to which we have been exhorted by Pope John Paul II.

Well, it is now clear that this consensus of necessity connotes that both the government and the non-Marxist opposition will yield on some of their stands. Only in this way will it be possible to reconcile their present differences.

I count myself among those who have understood that our loyalty to Chile and the government obliges us to exact from the latter vigorous, comprehensive and systematic action to ensure the gradual transition toward full democracy.

Thus, and in the repeated manner in which we have stated our apprehension over the stagnation or vacillations observed in that process, I feel that the government has unquestionably taken significant and promising steps recently in this regard.

The announcement of a quick review of the political laws and Minister Jarpa's clearcut proposals for an opening are only part--but at the same time an essential part--of the broad outlines of the integral government plan the details of which will be released shortly.

Without a doubt, if these advances had been made earlier, the government's initiative in this respect would have been unequivocal, and no one would have been able to claim them to be concession forced by the demands of the opposition. But the essential point is that the government is now ready to take the required steps.

What is more, both General Matthei and Minister Jarpa himself have expressed the possibility of going farther and studying eventual changes of the provisional articles of the constitution through a plebiscite. I accept this as a cost of the government's political erosion arising out of the economic crisis and its loss of credibility for not having effectively promoted the transition from its juridical beginnings, when the extraordinary political success of the 1980 plebiscite had placed it in the best possible position to do so.

But, in the meantime, the bulk of the democratic opposition seems to be allied with Marxist elements, is calling for the immediate resignation of the chief of state, is integrally disavowing the constitution and insisting on "a constituent assembly" and is asking for a quick end to the military regime.

If such unreal and fanatical intransigence is maintained, the moral and historical responsibility for encouraging radicalization in the direction of violence will fall upon those of the opposition. This could frustrate any opening and lead us into a civil tragedy.

The consensus should not be confused with the capitulation of either of the two parties. Therefore, both parties should make concessions until an agreement is reached.

Biographical Sketches of Cabinet

Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 17 Aug 83 pp 12-13

Texi Together with Jarpa and Passicot (see separate reports), these are the ministers who will make up the new cabinet:

Alfonso Marquez De la Plata, minister secretary-general of government. Some of his friends describe him as "friendly, easygoing and affable."

He says that he has never sought positions and honors. He admits to being a great admirer of President Pinochet and believes that his is the only government which can move the country forward. He is 50 years old and is an agronomic engineer. For 2 years he has served as Minister of Agriculture in the present regime.

In the communications sector, which falls under his ministry, he says that in the future there will be fluidity in such matters and that he will seek the most frank and direct contact possible with the press.

He has been a councilman, president of the National Agriculture Society and has engaged in many agricultural and business activities.

Modesto Collados Nunez, minister of housing .

The beginning of a very important and difficult job is the way the Minister of Housing described the new post he is to assume.

He says he is an optimist and a technician without political trappings. "The times are hard, but I like a fight when the cause is just," he said a few weeks ago.

Collados says that the new cabinet needs the cooperation of all Chileans to be able to move the country forward and asserts that he will make every effort to resolve the housing problems. He is convinced that construction is a key factor in ending unemployment and the recession.

The construction trade union greeted his appointment with approval and is saying that this means support for the sector's 3-year program.

Hugo Galvez Gajardo, minister of labor

He describes himself as an "out-and-out" liberal and a firm advocate of an open-door policy for the worker trade unions, businessmen and the press.

Galvez, 63, an attorney, had already held this ministerial post in 1960 during the presidency of Jorge Alessandri. He says that at a time when everyone is talking about the need for consensus, it is necessary to open the doors to dialogue with the people. At the same time, he also feels that the communications media have a great responsibility for contributing to the implementation of the proposals for peace and national unity.

In the labor sector, he says that it is the right time to introduce reforms of the labor laws "to bring an ambiance of peace and progress to the enterprises and workers." In his opinion, unemployment is the most serious problem confronting the people, and the government should exert its best efforts to resolve it.

Winston Chinchon, minister of health

Dr Chinchon says that his ministry will be ready to engage in wide-ranging dialogue with all the health trade unions. In the administration of his sector, he says that he is only able to give specific information about the general guidelines offered by the government. He said that the health bill will go through the usual procedures and that he is open to suggestions from qualified groups which will benefit from the program.

With respect to his position vis-a-vis the Medical Association, he says that the relationship will depend on their attitude. "The doors of my ministry are always going to be open to those and for those who share with us the obligations for the health sector."

Hernan Bucci, minister-director of ODEPLAN [National Planning Office]

"A man who is impossible to categorize because he is above and beyond all the criteria of the ordinary"; "brilliant, unusual, a loner"; these are some of the ways the new minister's friends describe him.

Bucci, 34, is a civil mining engineer from the University of Chile, with a master's degree in Business Administration from Columbia University. He has served as undersecretary of Economy and Health. He has also been director of several enterprises and up until recently was president of ENDESA [National Electric Power, Inc.]

He does not care for personal interviews and in general shuns publicity. Among his most important concerns are the situation of the financial and banking system and the efficiency of the public enterprises.

"I will propose realistic solutions which will help economic recovery," he said when he assumed his post.

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CP OFFICIALS DISCUSS RISING OPPOSITION TO PINOCHET

Teitelboim Article

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Aug 83 p 3

[Article by V. Teitelboim, member of the Political Committee of the Chilean Communist Party Central Committee: "'I Believe in Chile'"]

[Text] "I believe in the destiny of our country. Other Chileans will endure this dark and bitter hour when treachery bursts its way to power. But know that the day is not far away, the day is close at hand when once again there will open up a broad road down which a worthy person will walk in order to build a better society."

S. Allende, 11 September 1973.

These prophetic words, uttered by the people's president of Chile only a few hours before his death, I recall today, when millions of Chileans are resolutely demanding Pinochet's retirement, when the slogan "Democracy now!" has truly become a national one.

Recently, on 11 August, the fourth National Day of Protest was held. It demonstrated with new force the will of the Chilean workers and their desire to be rid of the bloody Pinochet dictatorship. The tyrant stated that he would not permit a third, much less a fourth mass protest. "The government was tolerant of the two previous ones," the hangman stated, "but now there must be an end to this."

But despite his threats, tens of thousands of unarmed Chileans took to the city streets demanding the restoration of democracy and respect for civil rights. The enraged dictator brought down upon the demonstrators the full might of his repressive government. Twenty-seven people, including children, died from shots fired by the security forces. However, even this bloody

massacre did not break the opposition to the Pinochet regime. The decision had already been made to hold a fifth [in boldface] Day of National Protest.

I remind you that the two first protest days were held in Chile on 11 May and 14 June of this year. Hundreds of thousands of Santiago residents took part in them, despite the repressive actions of the authorities and the fact that there were dead and wounded among the protesters. In order to deprive the people of information about preparations for subsequent actions the tyrant ordered the establishment of very strict censorship. Nonetheless, the third Day of National Protest in July exceeded the two previous ones. It received support from many millions of Chileans. Virtually the entire country demanded that Pinochet retire. The dictator carried out repression against all those with inclinations toward the opposition. But Pinochet's guard is particularly zealous about hunting communists. The regime's ringleader suspected that they were the ones who organized the days of protest. This is not so. However, it was not without reason that those arrested included Rodolfo Segel, leader of the miners' union, Gabriel Valdez, chairman of the Christian Democratic Party, and Jorge Lavandero, chairman of the influential opposition organization called the "National Development Project". And it was Lavandero who said: "Not once, but a hundred times we will go to prison if that is the price for the restoration of our democracy."

However, by attempting to suppress popular demonstrations by force Pinochet only exacerbated his own position. He is adding more and more fuel to the fire. Never before has the dictator been so alone both within the country and outside it. Even the U.S. State Department thinks that its pupil, who has served the White House faithfully for 10 years, has now become virtually an obstacle to further Yankee control over Chile.

Thus the tyrant is on the point of being thrown to the mercy of fate by his most solicitous guardian, who values the interests of the multinational monopolies above everything else, including "family relations." And it is quite prepared to allow "Pinochetism" without Pinochet.

Many foreign newspapers and journals agree with the opinion that Pinochet has no chance of being saved. For example, the Spanish PAIS carried an article with the headline "Pinochet--The Madman in La Moneda Palace." The U.S. ambassador to Chile, James Theberge, a person of extremely reactionary views, said in confidence to his colleagues: "Pinochet lies to everyone and is convinced that everyone lies to him. He trusts nobody and by now nobody can trust him."

The dictator has set a genuine record. At present he has managed to arouse the simultaneous opposition of the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, the church and the Masons, the financial oligarchy and the impoverished middle classes. Only the ground forces and the police continue to support the tyrant. But not because they agree with him on everything. The army remains "faithful" to the dictator because it fears retribution for past crimes. Moreover, the soldiers and officers are constantly under strict surveillance by plainclothes men, and they are subjected to frequent purges and shake-downs. But it is well known that the army contains a substantial number of people who would willingly get rid of Pinochet.

Pinochet is mired in corruption and nepotism. In Chile stories are told about his greedy and self-seeking relatives. And there is a telling detail: he never looks a person in the eye when talking to him, nor does he look into the camera when he is talking on television. Tens of experts who were brought in to create for him the image of a "champion of the people" have literally worn themselves out. Despite all their efforts, Pinochet always has the same look--a threatening one. It is interesting that even his friends in the CIA, anxious about their creature, sent the best psychiatrists to Santiago to analyze his public statements, which are always full of malice and hatred. The results of the investigation were not reassuring.

According to Pinochet, everything that is happening in Chile at present is the "sinister plan of the Russians," who are supposedly attempting to create a false image for him in order to overthrow him. After such statements his close associates came to the conclusion that their chief was simply out of his mind.

How do the millions of Chileans express their protest? By peaceful means: by banging on empty pans with a spoon at a set time or by nosily stamping their feet on the tins roofs of their dwellings. As a rule, this "music" is accompanied by slogans: "Somoza left, Pinochet should go too," "Bread, justice, work and freedom!" or "Stop the repression and torture!"

I have before me a list, one of those which is now being disseminated in Chile. It was sent to me by acquaintances in my Homeland. Its heading is: "Protest any way you can." It goes on to specify various forms of protest against the Pinochet authorities: "Do not buy anything, do not send your children to school, walk slowly in the street, honk horns and ring bells after 10 pm, organize meetings at work sites and universities, do not give in to provocation and intimidation.

With the fall of night and the arrival of the curfew hour, other methods are used: in the workers' areas of Santiago barricades of burnt-out car tires are put up. Thousands of demonstrators

protect themselves from the soldiers and police pressing in on them. Shots ring out, tear gas swirls about.

The people of Chile have inflicted a mortal blow to the monster. But there is not yet complete unity among the various opposition forces. But everyone is unanimous on the main point, which is the need to remove the imposter from power, to create a new, democratic transition government, to hold free national elections and to begin to restore the country. And it is possible that in order to achieve these goals a fifth, sixth and seventh Day of National Protest will be necessary, or as many as are needed to get rid of Pinochet and his henchmen. The fate of these favorites has been decided. Neither bloody terror nor cunning political tricks will help the tyrant. Freedom and democracy will be returned to Chile, and this happy moment is no longer far off.

Montes Press Conference

Moscow APN DAILY REVIEW in English 13 Sep 83 p 1

[TASS item: "Jorge Montes Holds Press Conference in Moscow"]

[Text] The military fascist Pinochet regime's repression is unable to keep the Chilean people down. The Chileans are closing their ranks in the struggle against the hated junta and diversifying the forms of protest. The economic crisis in Chile is tightening its grip: nearly one in every three Chileans is out of work and even the people's basic needs are not being met.

This description of the situation in Chile was given by Jorge Montes, a member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile. He was speaking at a press conference in Moscow, which was sponsored by the Soviet Committee of Solidarity with Chilean Democrats.

Jorge Montes illustrated his conclusions with the example of national protest days in Chile in recent months. The population's mass demonstrations against the fascist regime, which began on another protest day, September 8, are continuing to this day, despite ruthless reprisals and arrests.

The Communist Party of Chile urges the rallying of all forces which oppose the military fascist regime, Jorge Montes emphasized. "There can be no question of dialogue with fascism--only struggle against it till the final victory," he said. "The Chilean communists," he added, "favor the development of all forms of popular protest. The Communist Party maintains steady contacts with mass public organizations and takes part in coordinating their activities."

"Our goals are clear," Jorge Montes said in conclusion. "They are to remove the fascist regime and form a provisional government based on the platform of popular unity. This government could immediately embark on implementing ripe political, social and economic reforms. The progressive social transformations effected by the Salvadore Allende government in the interests of the working people have left a deep impression on the Chilean people." [TASS, September 12. In full. Translated by TASS]

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JARPA: 'THE PRESIDENT CAN DEPEND ON US'

Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish 18-24 Aug 83 pp 9-11

Interview with Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa by Patricia O'Shea; date and place not given

Text He says that he has "the accelerator to the floor." And no one doubts it. Less than a week after having assumed the post of Minister of Interior, Sergio Onofre Jarpa has produced a political shakeup in the country. And the fact is that he is an experienced politician. He is also friendly and charming. He received QUE PASA the day following the protest, a day when his time was precious. He says that he has been asked for interviews by about 100 politicians and businessmen. All of them want to talk with him. And he wants to talk with a lot of people, too, supporters and opponents. "With everything I have to do, they want me to read all the statements made against me...the truth is that I do not have the time."

Question What did you think about the statement made by Domingo Duran when he described this cabinet as a "hash"?

He laughs heartily. He seems to like the description very much. "I think Domingo is a nice fellow and is very picturesque in his definitions; but we are going to have a talk one of these days to see whether instead of hash we can prepare roast pork and tomatoes."

Two days after his appointment, Domingo Duran had gone to talk with him at the Palacio de La Moneda. He left saying he was grateful for the effort Jarpa was making by assuming the post of Minister of Interior in such difficult times.

Question For a person like yourself, who has worked all his life in politics, does being appointed Minister of Interior and announcing decisive measures mean the culmination of a career?

Answer I never in my life thought of having a political career. The truth is that the situation and circumstances have caused me to assume tasks that probably are way over my head. But that is fate. When the problem of Popular Unity came up, it was necessary to assume tasks and present ourselves as candidates for parliament and the councils. It had never before occurred to me to think about being a councilman or parliamentarian. However, it had to be

done. After that I took over embassies and tried to do what the president of the republic wanted me to do. Now he has entrusted me with this job which is a great honor but it is also an enormous responsibility. I hope to move forward with the help of all Chileans of goodwill.

Question The president has spoken rather harsh words about politicians. Nevertheless, now a politician is returning to the Ministry of Interior, although you tell me that you are not a politician. What virtues and defects do you see in a politician?

Answer I could say that I do not consider myself a politician. What is happening in Chile, because of some of the vices of the political parties and because of some of the excesses of the parliaments (for example, when it was necessary to approve the budgetary legislation, the Minister of Finance had to make the most incredible pacts in order to get the votes), is that for a long time the Presidents have attempted to strengthen presidential authority and have tried to prevent the interference of political leaders and parliamentarians, particularly in economic matters. Therefore, the idea that exists about a "politician" being an element which does not always serve the national interest but rather the interest of a group or party was deeply rooted in public opinion. I remember that when the people turned out to vote for General Ibanez there was a repudiation of the political sector. Jorge Alessandri was a candidate who denounced the excesses of the parties. I would say that in general the political parties were responsible for the development of the system which, because of an excess of politicking, because of weakness or ineffectiveness, wound up in a Marxist government...for which we cannot blame those who did not participate in politics. Therefore, in a way, the president is right...what is bad is that if some basic precautions are not taken, we all get "soaked." But I have never felt offended because in one way or another we were all part of a system which obviously was not effective and was not sufficiently clear. That is also a lesson we should all keep in mind for the future.

Question You are called a nationalist. What is the difference between your nationalism and that advocated by so-called nationalists such as Rodriguez, Acuna and Willoughby--the hardliners--who have been at odds with another sector of the government's supporters, those in favor of an opening or the trade unionists?

Answer Nationalism is not an attitude; it is not a political group. I have many radical friends and if they are asked whether they are nationalists, they say "yes" and consider it a bad thing for someone to attempt to appropriate the term of nationalist. Therefore, I do not believe there is a question of nationalism or of how to use the word Chileanity which, in my opinion, represents more or less the same attitude.

Question What do you think about the dispute between the nationalists--hardliners--and the trade unionists or those in favor of an opening?

Answer I hope the dispute among the government's supporters ends soon because we are confronting serious problems and cannot continue discussing

questions of terminology or interpretations which could be quite interesting at another time.

Question It has been said that you do not exactly like the trade unionists. What do you think of that movement?

Answer I think they are very good people who have had the responsibility for political leadership during one stage and have tried--I suppose--to do a very good job. Now that the circumstances or the orientations were not or are not suited to the present, that is another story. I believe they are very good people and that they could join all the others who are pushing on the same side.

Question How would you describe the president? Is he a good politician?

Answer I would say that the president is a very patriotic man who is much concerned about the future of Chile. He is very moved when humble people come to him for help or ask him for protection. In this regard he has great social concern, and I think he has very good political judgment. However, since he is very thorough person, he relies a lot on people and at times espouses positions, or assumes responsibility for things that can definitely harm him.

Question To what are you referring?

Answer To certain political or economic positions which the president thought would have a different effect than they did. He supported them with the most absolute good faith and since he is very much a man at no time did he say: "The ministers informed me badly or they were wrong." The president has directly and silently assumed the responsibility, and the truth is that mistakes have been made here by his civilian colleagues.

Question But the line was reaffirmed...

Answer No mistaken line has been reaffirmed here. We are effecting a realistic policy here. Now, I repeat, the people who made mistakes I am sure were acting in good faith. And the president has been very manly and has not brought them up. From the viewpoint of the political usage with which we are familiar, it may be that this attitude of the president is considered mistaken. But that is the way it is when there is a single line, and the president does not go around trying to make excuses for himself. I will tell him that I have a great debt of gratitude to him because had it not been for his decisiveness, this country would not have got beyond 1973. We have a poor memory and do not remember the situation we had in September 1973, when there was not even any food.

Question You said that with this cabinet a new stage in political leadership was beginning. How do you propose to start your job to overcome the trench atmosphere between the government and the opposition? How do you intend to produce that thaw which will permit dialogue leading to a consensus?

Answer My point of departure is several factors with which I am acquainted. First, the government's readiness to open that dialogue and move forward with a plan leading to full democracy. Second, the disposition of the immense majority of Chileans who, I am sure, want to find a solution to the economic and political problems in an ambience of peace and understanding and rejection of violence and vandalism. The third factor is the faith I have in Chile which has been able to overcome--as I told the president--very difficult trials throughout its history and I believe that we are also going to overcome this one, with the help of God.

Question On one occasion, you said that it would be very difficult to initiate a dialogue or to begin to talk about political activity when there are no clear definitions on the part of some sectors and when there are sectors that do not recognize the 1980 Constitution. Now there is talk of inviting people who put out a manifesto a few days ago--that of the Democratic Alliance--in which the president is called upon to depart and who have failed to recognize the legitimacy of the Constitution.

Answer Well, those persons are very few in number. I believe that if you take the trouble to count them they will not add up to a very large number. I suppose there are other persons of goodwill who are ready to cooperate.

Question But those few persons are people such as Gabriel Valdes, who heads an important opposition party...

Answer If Valdes does not wish to cooperate, that is his responsibility. But there will be other persons willing to cooperate.

Question The government has given an answer to the Pope's appeal by means of several announcements which have been made. Do you not feel that the opposition should give a more concrete answer which is not through more violence and the banging of pots and pans?

Answer That is what I hope. Unfortunately, the most rational and responsible people in the opposition are not in the leadership at this time. I hope that this situation can be rectified in the future and that there will be people with more political experience with whom we can reach an understanding.

Question In various interviews you have expressed a concern over the infiltration of Marxism. Do you think it possible to put an end to such communist infiltration in Chile and Latin America?

Answer It is not possible to put an end to Marxism infiltration; however, we must keep a defensive attitude toward it, in a unified front against it. That is one of the evils of our times. We will have to accustom ourselves to living with this defensive spirit of defending our values, because if we "lower our guard," the same things that happened in 1970-1973 will happen again. I am sure that the irresponsible people who are calling for protests are not the same people who are employing the terrorist tactics of the kind we witnessed yesterday. There must be an underground commando that is using that leadership as a screen, but that leadership has the moral responsibility for what has happened because it lends itself to the calling of protests.

Question Do you consider valid the proposals made by the "Democratic Alliance"--formed of the same sectors which called for the protests--with respect to totalitarianisms which exclude them from this group?

Answer I believe that we have to define our position with regard to communism. No one is asking them whether or not they are going to invite us to their homes but rather whether they consider it possible for a sound, stable and efficient democracy to exist, leaving the door open to Marxist infiltration. That is to say whether or not they want to return to 1970.

Question There are other persons who have demonstrated that they support the government's action, who are expressing their solidarity with it from the outside. They are former National Party members. You have indicated the need for the formation of large political blocs which will give stability to the democracy. However, the National Party members, who were your party, appear to be divided into "cliques." What do you think of this process? What would you say to the political right?

Answer I think the idea is for them to form large parties of opinion in which there is room for everybody, even though they have differences with respect to details of minor importance. It seems to me that people have to get together around very clear definitions and orienting principles; but on all sides there will be different ideas of how to handle the problems of the moment. Therefore, I am not worried that different statements have surfaced recently. I think that when the time comes for basic definitions, people are going to take the position which suits them.

Question And when will those basic definitions come into being?

Answer When the law covering political parties is passed there will be an opportunity for the taking of positions.

Question Does that law fit within the framework of the political plan you have been proposing?

Answer The president has always been very concerned about the political and economic management of the country, and when I talked with him, in connection with the mission I was carrying out in Argentina, occasionally he took the opportunity to speak about internal politics. I gave him my opinion, with the interest which all of us Chileans have in assuring that things run as well as possible; however, I had never proposed that as a political plan. What is more, I have presented nothing in a personal way. A committee is at work here with the ideas that the president himself had set forth and on that basis it sent him a memorandum.

Question That were the ideas about an opening?

Answer Exactly.

Question Among those ideas there is talk of the possibility of a parliament. You did not rule out the possibility that a Congress would be in operation before 1990...and you said that other formulas could be thought of...

Answer Yes, of course. We are not closed to anything here. But we want them to propose things that are realistic, which function and which really correspond to an expression of public opinion and not only of minorities or top party leaderships. Different approaches can be envisaged so long as there is a will to do things well. I think that what is important is the essence of the problem rather than getting ourselves tangled up in questions of form which will always be easy to resolve. The essence is that either we head down the road of dialogue and democracy or allow ourselves to be dragged into a confrontation whose outcome will be disastrous for the country. Then for many years there will be no possibility for peace and internal unity, much less a solution to the economic problems.

Question May we know of what the road of that plan consists?

Answer The plan is formed basically of the political laws, because as long as no political laws are passed, the rest is making announcements.

Question Is it possible to hope that this plan has a schedule for the attainment of certain objectives?

Answer I think so, but the idea at this time is not to set a date for the Council of State and limit its possibilities of drafting the organic bills with sufficient study.

Question The opposition is afraid that they will be "cut out." Is that not the government's thinking?

Answer No. No. That would be a political tactic. No. We are interested in having the country move forward, not in engaging in political tactics. That serves no useful purpose. That does not serve the country. We are fulfilling our commitment by passing these laws and perhaps, as I have told you, it will be necessary to have a plebiscite so that public opinion can resolve the matter. Because if at some time it is necessary to introduce a reform of the provisional articles of the Constitution, we will have to do so through a plebiscite. The idea is not to change the permanent Constitution; but there are provisional articles whose time frames could be shortened.

Question As for a Congress?

Answer Yes.

Question You said you had received many telephone calls of support. What did you ask of those who are supporting you?

Answer Little by little I am going to meet with them and I am going to ask them all to help me in something. Because I am aware that I cannot do this job if they do not help me. And since there are other fellows who are going to devote their efforts to placing obstacles in the road, that is all the more reason I need help.

Question Those fellows have said that they cannot dive into an empty pool. They want to see the water first.

Answer Well, let them wait and they will see the water. Let them wait a bit but let them not smash the pool prematurely. Many of them were responsible for a Marxist minority's coming to power; therefore, they should give those of us who were not part of that problem a chance to work a little, with the promise that if things go badly for us, we will leave. We are not thinking about taking root in the government.

Question It has been said that if this political plan is not accompanied by economic relief it will definitely fail.

Answer There are also economic plans which will be made public shortly. The programs have to be coordinated with the country's economic reality and implemented to the extent that we are able to make the resources available. Minister Caceres does not have a rigid program. He has analyzed public finances and the state's commitments and has secured an extraordinarily good renegotiation abroad. Within the framework of these resources, a public works and housing reactivation program fits perfectly and will be stepped up to the degree that we have additional resources.

Question Finally, Mr Minister, could this cabinet restructure be interpreted as the president's decision to make the government and cabinet more responsible for political management and not to commit the whole regime to situational matters and policy decisions and instruments?

Answer I think that the president is a deeply patriotic man and is constantly worried about resolving the problems. Therefore, he is always trying to promote the work of the government and the public administration. I think that if we ministers are capable of taking on this task efficiently and with the enthusiasm the president wants, he is going to be able to depend on us a bit.

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PINOCHET: 'I THINK AN UNDERSTANDING IS POSSIBLE'

Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish 8-14 Sep 83 pp 8-12

[Interview with Gen Augusto Pinochet, president of Chile, by Patricia O'Shea, in Santiago; date not given]

[Text] Accomplishments: regionalization, the southern highway. Frustrations: some poisoned minds among the youth. "I will not take a step backward."

Ten years. Ten years, as he puts it, of worries, studies, reflection, accomplishments and frustrations. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since that Tuesday, 11 September 1973, when the first decree of the Government Junta was the military proclamation which ended the 1,000 days of Popular Unity. They were days of total shortages. And also of total chaos. Chaos which, as President Pinochet notes, many are forgetting today.

Amiable, easygoing and sure of his answers. President Pinochet received QUE PASA at the door to his presidential office. A friendly smile, eyes that are noteworthy because of their color and a cordial "come in and fire away" instill an ambience of tranquility to examine what those 10 years have been like and the changes under consideration at the present time. He did not sidestep a single question.

[Question] What recollections do you have of 4 September 1970? What did you think would happen to the country?

[Answer] On 4 September I was in my office and said to myself: "Poor country. We are going straight into communism and Marxism. And they do not know where they are taking us. I hope the politicians think it over and do not name that man president of the republic because if they do, that is the end of the country." It came out the way I thought. I am not a fortune-teller, but that time my reasoning was right on target.

[Question] You have completed 10 years. What has it meant to you to become the president who has endured the longest in the country's history.

[Answer] It has meant worry, study, meditation, reflection, accomplishments and frustrations.

[Questions] What are the most important accomplishments?

[Answer] There are many accomplishments. For example, one of the biggest accomplishments was regionalization. Regionalization has one virtue: it has solved the problem of the country's shape which is in the form of a belt. In the old days, everything was located in the central part of the country. Today, every region has a nucleus which permits harmonious development of the economic, political and administrative sectors. The previous centralism does not exist. That is one of the biggest accomplishments we have had here in Chile.

Another important accomplishment which I can cite is the Southern Highway. The Southern Highway opened 100,000 square kilometers of land to the whole country. That highway has had transcendental ramifications. I think the people have not given enough importance to the significance of that highway, as it will permit us to go inland to the cordillera and make use of lands that are now forested. That is another great accomplishment. And so are the seven modernizations. In short, it would take a long time to enumerate all the accomplishments.

[Questions] And what have been the frustrations?

[Answers] Frustrations? For example, among a portion of the youth the opposition managed to infiltrate some minds. That is a frustration.

[Question] Does that mean that this portion of the youth was unable to understand the overall work of this government?

[Answer] That means the opposition managed to infiltrate the minds of a portion of the youth.

[Question] Mr President, if you had it to do over, what things would you not do again? What things would you change?

[Answers] Many things.

[Question] Take the security services for example. Would you again structure them the way they are?

[Answer] Yes, I would do the same thing with the security services because they give you security.

(We told him that a few days earlier a bomb had been planted in our magazine's building.)

[Answer] That is why I said what I did. The security services give you security. It was the security services that deactivated the bomb.

[Question] But do you not also think they committed some excesses?

[Answer] Excesses were committed by both sides. When they talk about dead or disappeared persons, they say nothing about those on our side. We had casualties. More than 400 persons have been wounded or killed.

[Question] Francisco Bulnes said in an interview he thinks that if the politicians show they can give a government to a country, if they show maturity, you would have no problem shortening your term? Have you considered that possibility?

[Answer] You have to understand one thing well: I was not the one who set the timetables. I am not the one who said I am going to do this or that. It is the country that set the timetables and the road to follow in a constitution. To change that constitution, we have to hold a plebiscite. And to hold a plebiscite we would have to have electoral registrations. If we failed to do so, out there they would say it was not valid. So where are we? If it is not I, it is the people who set the road; and I swore to respect it.

[Question] Therefore, you will do things the way they have been established.

[Answer] The way they are.

[Question] How do you evaluate the attainment of the objectives which were set on 11 September 1973, particularly as regards putting an end to Marxist infiltration and giving the country a new institutionality which would prevent a crisis similar to the one that year?

[Answer] As regards Marxist infiltration, I think the country clearly recognizes the harm it is producing and the danger it represents for institutional stability.

Keeping fully aware of that danger is extremely important and to this end the government has contributed heavily to permanently denouncing Marxist activities and to demanding a definite position from Marxism.

But what has been done is not enough to combat Marxism, which in part is a product of poverty and discontent. Therefore, we have developed an effective policy against extreme poverty and social alienation, by integrating into those sectors the benefits of development and by making important resources available to them. Naturally the promotion of an economic strategy which favors progress and development, such as the one followed during these years, also represents a tool in the anti-Marxist struggle.

In a related connection, the country now has legal instruments to protect the institutional system from Marxist activities and from any other totalitarian activity. The pertinent constitutional provision that excludes from civic life all those who propagate totalitarian doctrines is an indispensable mechanism which, combined with the actions undertaken in other sectors I have referred to, constitute an integral answer to the latent threat of Marxism.

With respect to our proposal to build a new institutionality, no one can doubt that the essential principles and institutions of a democratic society founded on freedom now find in the constitution a much clearer statement than in the previous institutionality.

[Question] You said recently that if the country were to run into a situation such as that of September 1973 you would repeat the decision taken on 11 September of that year. What is the exact meaning of your words? Do they respond to an apprehension that the country is confronting a situation which could lead to similar chaos?

[Answer] If we were to return to 11 September 1973, the military proclamation would be made once again. The decision taken at that time by the armed forces was absolutely necessary to keep the country from becoming one more satellite of Soviet imperialism or to prevent the outbreak of civil war.

And if tomorrow the country were once again in danger, its very existence threatened, the armed forces would once again save its sovereignty and freedom.

To interpret my words as meaning the country is now going through a situation similar to that of 1973 is absurd. There is no similarity between the very serious problem of today and those of that critical situation.

[Question] What is the balance sheet of those 10 years of your administration in the economic-social sector? What would be the most positive and negative aspects you would bring out?

[Answer] In the first place I must point out that the country, through effort and sacrifice, was able to recover from the prostration in which we were left by the Marxist regime, to overcome the so-called oil crisis between 1975 and 1976 and to grow at more satisfactory rates from 1977 to 1981, with consequent benefit to all sectors. Just because today there are serious difficulties, the product of the international recession, we are not going to overlook the development experiences by the country since 1973 and the accomplishments, which are obvious.

In 1973 the government had to face the challenge of rebuilding the country with 22 percent of its population immersed in extreme poverty, with a productive apparatus destroyed by expropriations, with runaway inflation, a country which was for years bearing the burden of a series of distorted economic measures, such as exemptions, price control, high and discretionary tariffs, maintenance of a negative real interest rate and others which were harmful to most of the population, particularly to the poorest, and had only benefited specific sectors or groups.

At that time we had to resume the social programs to promote effective equality of opportunity; reduce the fiscal deficit, which was reaching an untenable level; defeat the scourge of inflation; demand efficiency in the public enterprises; promote confidence abroad, which had been so damaged by the Marxist regime; and, in general, create the conditions so that private initiative could resume its role as the motive force of national development.

Today we can point to concrete accomplishments in all sectors. The reduction of infant mortality from 65.4 per 1,000 live births in 1973 to 23.4 per 1,000 in 1982; a reduction in malnutrition from 15.5 percent in 1975 to 8.8 percent

in 1982; a reduction in illiteracy, whose average in Latin America in 1980 was 22 percent, to 5.9 percent from the 10 percent in 1970; an increase in the coverage of basic education to 97 percent of the children of school age; a 46 percent increase in the country's number of courts; an increase in social spending from the 27 percent of 1973 expenditures to 58 percent in 1982, are some of the accomplishments of a social character which demonstrates an effective advance of the country in this sector.

In the economic sector, the country has made important progress, particularly in the fields of mining, fishing and forestry. Our exports have been appreciably diversified. Private parties now have full freedom to engage in economic activity and there is an express recognition of the right to property. Chile is a country which gives security to investment and which takes advantage of the creative capabilities of its individuals.

The defeat of inflation is an extremely important achievement. And so is reduction of the fiscal deficit, which became huge between 1978 and 1981. What is more, we managed to resolve the balance of payments problems, which had been systematically showing a deficit prior to 1973.

I could go on citing figures and achievements of the vast work of the government. What is important to point out is that the country is now in a position to resume its road to development, having overcome the effects of the international crisis, and that the situation we experienced before 1973 has been definitely left behind us.

[Question] In recent years, both Your Excellency and other government authorities have publicly mentioned the loss of government support. To what factors do you attribute this loss of support? It has been said that the degree of support of the government was based fundamentally on economic success. Do you in any way share that criticism?

[Answer] The government's plan to create a new political, economic and social institutionality capable of moving our country up the road to development in every one of its sectors has generated the enthusiastic support of the great national majorities which have seen in this plan the possibility of overcoming the difficulties with which we are all acquainted.

The ambiance of peace and tranquillity which the government created, the normalization of national activities and the evident accomplishments which the economic strategy produced, particularly beginning in 1979, increased the government's popularity.

The people's support for the job of the government has been decisive for its programs, which have motivated the people. The approval of the 1980 political constitution is the best proof of that.

This decisive and enthusiastic support has now run up against the economic problem and, naturally, anyone affected economically, without security for his family, finds in that problem his principal preoccupation, and everything else is relegated to second place. If the economic problem continues, what is done in other sectors will not satisfy the aspirations which to that person are of primary importance.

It is necessary to overcome the economic problems to continue giving impetus to the country's progress and development and to attain the objectives set.

I do not mean to deny that the loss of support could also be due to mistakes the government has made. Those mistakes have been rectified.

Every decision has its margin of error. What is important is to react in time and, as we have done, to take a dynamic position in the face of difficulties which, I insist, are essentially economic.

[Question] Do you think that the recent measures you have requested of your cabinet will be successful in redeeming and increasing the degree of support?

[Answer] With this new cabinet we have initiated a political program which is to end with the political system provided by the constitution in place. This entails a new step toward the full democracy all Chileans and the government desire; therefore, I think that in addition to generating the support of the truly democratic sectors, it will strengthen the faith in the government and its decisions.

[Question] What do you think this government's legacy to the future democracy of Chile should be?

[Answer] The legacy will consist in having established the fundamental framework within which that democracy should function and develop.

[Question] How would you like for history to judge you as a statesman and your government's work?

[Answer] I hope this government will be remembered for the battle it had to wage to rescue Chile from Marxism and to defend its threatened freedom. History should record the work of those years and the effort made to assure the nation's political, economic and social development and to overcome the obstacles we encountered in the road and the capable and decisive manner in which we confronted them.

I think that this government should be given credit for having initiated a new stage in the history of Chile, which will be characterized by the mark of liberty.

[Question] What is your opinion of Chilean youth? Do you think that these 10 years have served to make the youth sector demand other qualities from its leaders, compared to what the young people expected of their leaders previously?

[Answer] I see a youth sector interested in its full perfectability and in the country's welfare. I have maintained continuing and close contact with young people and I am amazed by the dedication to service which animates them and the moral and spiritual values which characterize them. As a Chilean, I am proud of my country's youth, and this makes me have great confidence in the future.

Recently I said that in Chile today there are new civic customs and that I have noted stronger adherence to the basic principle of Christian western civilization and to what traditionally has been our way of life. The young people of today have more political, economic and cultural information, are especially receptive to religious values and are opposed to materialistic concepts. Respect for our history and its heroes has also increased. It is the young people who will be responsible for running the country in the future, and their leaders will have to represent those positive characteristics of our youth.

[Question] The youth of today do not remember the days of Popular Unity. It is becoming increasingly evident that their views of the present are not influenced by what happened in the past. How do you think they should evaluate this government's work? What evaluative factors would you offer them which are unrelated to previous governments?

[Question] In order for our young people to properly evaluate the work of the government they have to consider that it does not justify itself merely by comparison with the anarchy of the Marxist regime but rather has a program of its own and a defined objective. What we are doing today is shaping our institutions and creating a system in accordance with our values; and in this task, every young person has an important role. Our youth are a very important part of the institutionalization process and are called upon to assume a constructive attitude beginning now.

However, our relations with the church have been maintained within the framework of mutual respect. The government at times has had to reject church intervention in matters proper to the government and to complain of statements and actions of some priests situated in a specific political perspective that is not proper to their calling, a personal attitude which naturally does not involve the church, whose spiritual authority is above and beyond political parties.

In any case, I think this is a matter of problems which have been resolved.

As for the recent actions of the Archbishop of Santiago to cooperate in the dialogue between the government and sectors of the opposition, I welcome his intervention, which is so necessary for our coexistence. What is more, I admire even more his position equidistant between both sides, which expresses his jealously guarded evangelical mission, making it known that he does not belong to either sector.

[Question] Do you share the criticism that the lack of channels of political participation produce polarization of the church hierarchy? That the church has replaced and has become the voice of the political parties of the opposition?

[Answer] I think that is a grave allegation against the church hierarchy. They have a specific evangelical mission for which they have been specially trained and which has nothing to do with partisan political activity.

To think that the existence of a situation of restriction on party activity, a fully justified situation of exception, could affect the church hierarchy to the point of making it forget its mission and transform itself into a replacement organization for the suspended parties and make itself the voice of the opposition is to deny the existence in that hierarchy of all prudence and moderation, is to discredit its capacity to evaluate reality and is to fail to recognize the moral and spiritual values which inspire it and which could never induce it to take such action.

[Question] How do you judge the role of the "Chicago boys" in the government? You have known them at close hand. What virtues and defects do you see in them?

[Answer] What we have here are specialists and technicians with a high degree of professional training, who are honest, disinterested and devoted to solid principles, and who have directed a definite economic strategy that gave the country important results. It could be that their devotion to principles or their mistakes in evaluation have induced them not to change the instruments of political economy and to keep on doing what they have been doing. I think they have loyally served the country and the government.

[Question] Do you still have confidence in the economic model they have implemented for so many years?

[Answer] I think it is necessary to distinguish between economic strategy governed by and made up of the basic and invariable principles, and the instruments or means of their application.

I have full confidence in the economic strategy applied and I think that the free economy system is the only one capable of lifting the country out of underdevelopment, generating sufficient wealth and routing poverty. The state's subsidiary role in the economy, the opening to foreign trade, the recognition of the marketplace as the allocator of resources, free enterprise and private property, among others, are the fundamental elements needed to assure Chileans of their access to greater economic and social well-being.

[Questions] Top figures in the so-called Trade Union Movement have also cooperated with the government. What do you think of this movement and its positions?

[Answers] These are people with a high degree of interest in public affairs, who are well motivated and have solid moral principles and who have performed an important task of benefit of the country, particularly in the development of the institutional process. When some of them were called upon to cooperate with the government, they did so in a loyal and patriotic manner.

[Question] During these 10 years, you have mentioned the concept of democracy and have added some definitions of the kind of democracy the government has wanted to deliver. How does Your Excellency define democracy?

[Answer] Democracy is a form of government which is characterized basically by the direct participation of the people in the government itself.

I think that it is not enough to have universal suffrage, a parliament or political parties for a democracy to exist. It is also necessary for that democratic system to be sufficiently committed to the values for whose existence democracy must be an effective medium. I am referring to freedom, equality of opportunity, economic and social development, the security of persons and social justice, among other things. Otherwise democracy will be a mere formality, that is, a facade which in reality does not satisfy the community's aspirations.

Our challenge is to endow our democracy with the political, juridical and economic mechanisms needed to be effective, to respond to our status as a modern and free country. Our democracy must bring all sectors into the great national tasks, must promote the essential unity of the nation and must encourage development to prevent social alienation, which is the cause of backwardness and resentment.

[Question] During these 10 years you have had harsh words for politicians. Do you think they have learned anything in these 10 years? Have you observed acknowledgement of their past mistakes?

[Answer] The country is living in a new reality and has an institutionality which requires renewed political habits. No one questions the fact that demagoguery, the exacerbation of party interests, the preeminence of political factors over other considerations, the absence of records and public accountability in the parties, the efforts to orchestrate other social organizations and the categorical and total rejection of the opponent's positions have affected the country's political life to the point of making it almost sterile or at least not very representative of the various sectors of the population. I think that above and beyond passions and revanchism all the political sectors in which there is a real desire to move forward toward full democracy must agree on the need for political activity to take place with responsibility, high-mindedness and preferential consideration for the national interest.

[Question] At a difficult moment such as the one we are living through today, what was your rationale for the selection of a politician as the chief of cabinet?

[Answer] The Minister of Interior is an outstanding figure in national life, who is respected by all the sectors and who fully shares the government's thinking about the role that should be played by the political parties and the norms that should regulate their functioning in carrying out the study of the laws provided by the constitution and in moving forward in the political system it establishes. The personality of the present Minister of Interior combines the qualities now needed for implementation of the corresponding political plan.

[Question] Do you think it possible to distinguish between the democratic and Marxist opposition for the purpose of reaching a consensus?

[Answer] The government's purpose, as has been stated on other occasions, is to establish an open and frank dialogue with all the democratic sectors. The Marxists are totalitarians; and therefore, the government is excluding them from the talks.

[Question] Do you think an understanding with the democratic opposition is possible? On what basis?

[Answer] I think an understanding is possible. I think that after a prior phase designed to sort out differences that agreement of necessity will be produced which will permit us to proceed in an even more resolute fashion toward democratic institutionality. It will be necessary for those who still persist in disavowing it to recognize the validity of the constitution and the need for acting within the framework it establishes.

[Question] During this new phase that is beginning, how much weight will the protests have which were called by the opposition at the time the decision was made to initiate this process?

[Answer] At this time, we are not initiating any process; we are following the institutional road we have outlined, step by step. We are being guided by the voice of the vast majority which approved the constitution, not by the noise of the minority which is inciting protests in its zeal to satisfy its petty interests.

[Question] The opposition has called a fifth protest for this Thursday. What message would you give to those who are going to protest and to those who are not? What would you request of them?

[Answer] I am going to answer the same way I answered the other day: this is not my problem. This is the problem of those who are going to protest and of those who are inciting the protests.

[Question] What is your opinion of the refusal of one sector of the opposition to attend a rally which they requested, if they are authorized to hold one?

[Answer] That attitude demonstrates that the unity of the opposition is more apparent than real, since at the first opportunity a split has been produced. It also demonstrates the inconsistency of the requests of the leaders of the opposition who have tried to drag the people into protests and rallies and are now acting like the popular "Capitan Araya."

[Question] Do you feel that the doubts expressed by some persons to the effect that this new phase of opening could be "taking a step backwards" at some time are well-founded? Why?

[Answer] I think that with those apprehensions what they are seeking is to create uncertainty and distrust. The government has been characterized by its decisiveness and its will to move forward in the face of any challenge. The political program, naturally, is a challenge. The decision has been made to implement it and that is what will be done.

Now, you must understand that full democracy is not only the government's responsibility. Those of the opposition who claim to be democrats also have to play their part in this challenge; therefore, we have created the possibilities for dialogue and real participation which are necessary. In the face of this decision by the government, it is proper for those sectors to adopt a proper attitude, in compliance with the constitutional mandate.

[Question] What does loyalty mean to you? In line with your definition, whom does Your Excellency consider to have been your most loyal colleagues and supporters?

[Answer] I understand loyalty to mean fidelity to the essential values and principles which motivate a program. Naturally the most loyal colleagues are that vast majority of Chileans who during these years have not spared any effort to dedicate themselves entirely to the cause initiated on 11 September 1973. Those who have placed the country's interests before their own and have fought without concern about unjust criticism are also our most loyal supporters.

(He added later: I understand loyalty to mean upward and downward. Being loyal in all respects. Never deceiving anyone or trying to falsify the facts or attempting to find answers or solutions to matters which have none. Putting a good face on things is not loyalty. Loyalty consists in always telling the truth, forthrightly, purely and without circumlocutions.)

[Question] What do you consider the role of the press to have been in these 10 years? Do you think it has been honest with the government?

[Answer] In general, the press has been truthful and honest. The role it has played in these 10 years has been extraordinary as it carried out its important responsibility of reporting objectively.

[Question] What would you like the country's position to be in 10 years?

[Answer] I would like to see it with the objectives we have set for ourselves during these years completely attained.

[Question] Mr President, what would you most like at this moment?

[Answer] My wish would be the country's unity. A union of all Chileans, although I know that there is a percentage that will never join with us. But I should like to have national unity and to have everyone fight for the country, for Chile.

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CTC DRAFT ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WORKING CONDITIONS

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 16, 19, 22, 25 Aug 83

[Draft Theses for 15th CTC Congress]

[16 Aug 83 pp 4, 5]

[Text] Introduction

In fulfillment of the mandate established in its statutes, the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] will hold its 15th Congress from 20 February to 24 February 1984.

This great meeting of unionized Cuban workers will take place in a year with two important commemorations: the 45th anniversary of the founding of the CTC, an historic event that sums up the long and unselfish struggle of the working class for its unity; and the 26th year of the victorious revolution. On that glorious dawn in January, the revolution ended the domination of native and foreign exploiters forever and gave the power to the working class, the peasants and other workers.

Since then, the workers and their union movement have taken on new and important tasks and responsibilities. With the people and led by the party and Fidel, they have been and are the true protagonists in the long, tenacious, heroic and fruitful struggle to build the first socialist society in America.

Aware of those responsibilities and duties not only to our people but also to the other peoples of the world, particularly in our America, and as just and fervent homage to all those who preceded us in the fight for our complete redemption, we want the 15th CTC Congress to be a firm trench where our irreversible decision to continue fighting and to conquer any obstacle to the rapid advance of the revolution is reaffirmed.

We want the 15th CTC Congress to discuss--with the calmness, wisdom, courage, tenacity and determination that characterize the workers--the great tasks that we have before us for the economic and social development of the country, keeping in mind the difficult times that the world faces today.

We want the 15th CTC Congress to deliberate and reach just conclusions on everything we can and should do to fulfill the production plans with the

required quality, increase productivity, improve all the services, increase conservation of raw materials, materials, fuel, energy and lubricants as much as possible, reduce costs, make our enterprises profitable and be more efficient.

We want the 15th CTC Congress to contribute with its decisions to the momentum of activities involved in the recovery and production of spare parts, pass measures in support of the policy to reduce imports, especially from the capitalist area, and energetically support the efforts of the country to increase the production of exportable goods.

We want the 15th CTC Congress to speak out strongly for stronger labor discipline, respect for the rights of the workers guaranteed by the labor and social legislation of the revolution and compliance with the measures concerning work safety and hygiene.

We want the 15th CTC Congress to make decisions that contribute to the continued advance of the technical and professional training of the workers and the victorious completion of the battle for ninth grade which are indispensable requirements for our development. It must plan recommendations and initiatives that encourage and expand cultural, sports and recreational activities for the workers and their families and outline ways to strengthen ideological work to form and develop economic awareness in the workers and to make them better prepared for the diversionary and slanderous campaigns of our class enemies.

We want the 15th CTC Congress to reaffirm the importance of volunteer work as a contribution to the economy and a forger of communist awareness.

We want the 15th CTC Congress to point out the unshakable internationalist feelings of the working class and all the workers and the people which are expressed in their militant solidarity with the workers of the socialist community and all the world, particularly with those in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia who fight for a better future.

Finally, we want the 15th CTC Congress to hoist the banners of peace higher than ever facing the criminal and adventuresome warmongering policy of Yankee imperialism and, at the same time, reiterate the irrevocable decision of our people to fight to the last man and woman if the Yankee aggressor tries to desecrate the sacred soil of the fatherland.

That same spirit and that same determination will also be present at the analysis and discussion of these theses by the workers in every labor center of the country. They will meet in assemblies held under the broadest union democracy where everyone gives opinions, criticizes and suggests the best ways to enrich them, aware that everything we do better will have repercussions to benefit everyone individually and society as a whole.

When analyzing and debating the theses, contributing their valuable opinions and suggestions and working to carry out the agreements of the congress, the workers will be giving one more proof of their maturity as a governing class.

They will contribute also to strengthen their unions as wideranging mass organizations of the workers that have the historic honorable mission to direct their efforts toward the common undertaking to build socialism in our land. In this way, they will be fulfilling the historic legacy that the captain of the working class and teacher of union cadres, Lazaro Pena, left to us.

The discussion of these theses occurs only a few weeks after our people solemnly celebrated the 30th anniversary of the heroic feat in Moncada and gave homage to Jose Marti, its intellectual author, in the 130th year since his birth and to the great liberator, Simon Bolivar, on the bicentennial of his birth in our America. He fought so hard to see it united and sovereign.

Without any question, this process of discussion of the theses will put into play all the forces and will reaffirm the determination of the workers to promote and victoriously complete this year's work program with the resolution approved by the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee of the party and the repeated calls by comrade Fidel.

Let us reach the 15th CTC Congress with new and important victories for the fatherland and socialism under the accurate leadership of the party and Fidel's clear guidance!

I. Economic Activity of the Unions

1.1 Basic Economic Tasks

We live in a complicated international situation. The capitalist world is suffering from one of the worst economic crises in its history, brutally affecting the countries of the so-called "Third World" whose foreign debt is astronomical and keeps growing. It increases unemployment and inflation, leading to the hunger and poverty of millions of human beings. Global solutions to the major, agonizing problems that afflict mankind cannot be found anywhere. The frantic arms race unleashed by Yankee imperialism can be added to this. These problems, their causes, consequences and possible solutions were brilliantly expressed by comrade Fidel at the Seventh Summit of Nonaligned Countries.

This vast economic crisis has also had a negative effect on the Cuban economy. Our country has had to confront acute and critical problems. We have been forced to pay high interest rates for loans. There has been galloping inflation and the prices we must pay for the products we import from the capitalist area have increased extraordinarily. Meanwhile, the prices of our main export product--sugar--fell far below the levels that the most conservative analysts of the international sugar market predicted. All this has limited the amount of freely convertible currency available to finance the part of our economic plans that depends on trade with the capitalist area.

It is necessary to add to the above that the Yankee imperialists have intensified their aggressive policy and blockade against Cuba and have pressured the economic, trade and financial institutions of the Western countries in an attempt to create new problems for our country.

In recent years, we have had to fight tenaciously to counteract adverse climate conditions and confront insects, diseases and epidemics with suspicious origins that seriously affected our economy and caused the loss of human lives. We also have had to devote substantial material and human resources to strengthen the defense of the fatherland facing what was considered at certain times to be an imminent direct aggression by the Yankee imperialists, a threat that has not disappeared.

Despite the exceptional violence of some meteorological phenomena, the loss of human lives and the number of people hurt were really minimal because prompt and effective measures were adopted.

As a result of all the above, we have an unprecedented acute shortage of freely convertible foreign currency to support our economic plans. The only way to obtain that foreign currency is through the growth of exports, replacement of imports and a supreme effort in the fight for conservation, austerity and economic efficiency.

However, we have obvious advantages for confronting that situation.

Cuba is a socialist country. Our system is based on the social ownership by all the people of the basic means of production. Our international economic relations are developed mainly with the socialist countries, primarily the Soviet Union, with which we maintain a new type of economic relations. We are members of CEMA which guarantees the strategic development of our economy and offers us a secure market. At the same time, we are a united and disciplined people. We have a higher cultural and technical level. We are more experienced in battle. We consciously and voluntarily obey the leadership of a strong and seasoned party closely tied to the workers and the people. Also, as comrade Raul Castro justly pointed out, we have a leader of unquestionable stature, Fidel.

All the above means that the economic crisis affects us but not as seriously as the countries subject to capitalist exploitation.

If our country still lived in the old days of capitalism, we would not have the resources to take care of the most basic needs of the country. The economic crisis would have had incalculable dimensions. We would have been barely able to survive. As occurs in the majority of the underdeveloped countries, unemployment would be alarming, the people would suffer from hunger, poverty, diseases and illiteracy and we would lack any possibility of confronting social and economic development. Cuba can proclaim to the world that, in the midst of this situation, it is creating better conditions for the future, developing its economy, improving and increasing educational and public health services, preserving the essential supplies of the people and even increasing them.

Aware of our difficulties but also our strength, we are ready to confront the future optimistically and firmly, holding onto the irrevocable motto of fighting, fighting and fighting until finally winning victory. That is the spirit that the party and Fidel have instilled in us.

On the 30th anniversary of the attack on Moncada Barracks and the 130th year since the birth of its intellectual author, Jose Marti, the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee of the party appealed to the working class, the peasantry, the soldiers of the FAR and MININT [Ministry of the Interior], men and women, young and old, all our people to celebrate these glorious dates with a greater productive effort and an even more active participation in the defense of the socialist fatherland.

All the people have welcomed that resolution with extraordinary enthusiasm. The government, the party and the mass organizations have approved the program of measures to insure the fulfillment of their economic and social objectives which are being carried out. They fight everywhere to fulfill the agreements and commitments that contain the decision of the revolutionary masses to victoriously confront this situation.

The 15th CTC Congress must repeat and continue its determined support for the resolution of the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee of the party and the firm determination of all the Cuban workers to work unselfishly, with perseverance and a spirit of sacrifice to fulfill the production and service plans efficiently with maximal savings of fuel, electrical energy, lubricants, raw materials and materials of every type.

1.2 Conservation Is Basic Task

Conservation has become an urgent imperative for our development. Conservation means to economize, treasure, reserve and standardize everything to achieve the highest profitability of the enterprises--in short, to produce more with less.

Conservation is essential for the fulfillment of the production and service objectives with the required quality by using the minimal necessary material, financial and human resources with the greatest efficiency to develop the corresponding activity.

Only greater efficiency in the use of our resources and an unselfish and sustained effort by the workers will enable us to fulfill our plans in the midst of such an adverse international situation.

There are possibilities everywhere to lower the consumption of raw materials, materials and finances without affecting the levels of activity specified in the plans. It is indispensable to reduce the use and consumption of fuel, electrical energy and lubricants, replacing them with natural gas when possible and finding and using other inexhaustible or renewable energy sources like solar energy, the wind, waterfalls, etc.

In many places the recovery of raw materials and materials can be increased to the maximum which would mean a greater availability of resources, fewer imports and more exportable stock.

All the conservation measures must imply lower costs in general, particularly in material consumption. For the conservation proposals to have complete and

measurable expression at each administrative step of the production or service sector, it will be necessary to:

- a) Finalize commitments to lower the cost per peso of production below the plan in order to make the profitable enterprises more profitable and to achieve profitability in those that are not;
- b) Increase the rate of work productivity;
- c) Implement and improve the systems of standards for material consumption, eliminate surplus inventories and use idle resources;
- d) Work firmly and resolutely to lower consumption of raw materials, materials, electricity, fuel and lubricants per unit of production; and
- e) Promote savings in financial resources, particularly wages and allowances.

To achieve these important proposals, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out:

To have the unions mobilize the workers in each work place so that, with the administrations and through a meticulous analysis of the concrete process or activity, they point out everything that is not utilized and suggest ways to recover everything that is lost unnecessarily. What is going to be saved, how it is going to be saved and how much this represents economically must be clearly stated. In this important activity, the administrations must not only quantify what is going to be saved but exercise systematic control over the results.

1.3 Quality of Production and Services

The fight for quality is constantly demonstrated in our labor activities and has a notable repercussion on society and the economy.

Our economic conditions require the lengthening of the useful life of durable products and improvement of the quality of products for general consumption. In addition to rejection and displeasure among the consumers, the poor quality of a product occasionally causes major losses of the resources used in it.

It is indispensable for the country to diversify its exports and obtain new markets where our products can compete at satisfactory prices. This is not achieved if there aren't products capable of answering the demand of international trade. Therefore, the proper organization and development of quality control and metrological guarantees of products are indispensable.

The need to replace imports with national products requires the latter to have a similar quality to those that are imported so that they can really fulfill their task.

The failure to achieve very high growth in the global social product does not deny but, on the contrary, assumes that we have many possibilities of continuing to develop. Development does not just mean quantitative growth but also qualitative growth.

We must continue efforts to improve the quality of industrial and agricultural-livestock production, construction and, particularly, the service sector.

We must continue the broad mass movement that is being developed among the health workers in the fight for better treatment for the patients and their families in polyclinics and hospitals and to stimulate stricter compliance with the principles of socialist medical ethics by the health professionals. We must tie them more effectively to educational and scientific tasks in order to guarantee the sustained improvement of the quality of our medical care and education. We must make a greater effort to improve quality in passenger transportation services, communications, trade and food service. We must achieve better quality in all types and levels of education and improve the entire educational process. We must increase the rates of school and academic efficiency, emphasizing the joint work to be developed to improve school continuation and strengthen the work aimed at achieving higher yields in all the centers to train and advance educational personnel. We must stimulate a more direct tie between our researchers and the concrete needs of production. We must continue supporting artistic and literary creation in all manifestations of national culture with the highest professional level. We must stimulate the service workers to do more qualified and efficient work and treat the consumers better.

Therefore, the 15th CTC Congress must emphasize:

The important role that the unions must play to develop general and in-depth awareness of the quality of our production and services in each one of the workers and to increase skill and efficiency and improve the treatment of consumers.

1.3.1 Certification of Quality

The process undertaken in our country to certify quality is still in its initial stage but has had concrete results in production quality. Quality controls have been improved, new packaging and packing have been designed and improvements have been introduced in products. Several of them have obtained certification of their high quality.

The 15th CTC Congress must stipulate:

The need to fight so that the worker collectives aspire to have their products achieve and maintain the "State Mark of Quality."

1.4 Spare Parts

The manufacture and recovery of spare parts holds a very important place in the great battle we must fight for conservation, austerity and economic efficiency.

There has been progress in the manufacture of spare parts. Recovery has begun although in some places it is only sporadic and unplanned.

If we develop the production of spare parts and if we carry out steady, organized work for their recovery, the quantity and variety of parts we could manufacture and, especially, recover are inconceivable. This would permit us to resolve many problems and would be a source of savings for the country, especially in convertible foreign currency.

Therefore, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out to:

Encourage and develop the existing widespread organized mass movement to promote the creative initiative of the workers in the production and recovery of spare parts, stressing the principle that it is necessary first to recover, then produce and, last, import; and

Strongly support the initiatives undertaken to organize the recovery of spare parts in industry and to stimulate the increased skill and specialization of the workers in this activity.

1.5 Innovators and Efficiency Experts

Another factor that plays a very important role in reducing material expenses, increasing quality and fighting for efficiency in general is the movement of innovators and efficiency experts.

In its years of existence, ANIR [National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts] has had impressive results in the solution of many problems in different spheres of economic and social activity in the country.

Last year the National People's Government Assembly approved the Law on Innovators and Efficiency Experts which unquestionably constitutes a legal instrument that will help strengthen their important functions.

In that sense, the 15th CTC Congress must:

Appeal to all the Innovators and Efficiency Experts Committees in the country to develop their potential to the maximum in order to reduce material expenses, increase quality and efficiency in production and service and arouse a spirit of vigilance toward waste, combining their efforts with the Technical Youth Brigades;

Exhort the administrative leaders of the enterprises, organisms and other entities to give maximal support for the development of thematic plans, put into practice the innovations and efficiency improvements and publicize achievements in this activity; and

Urge the unions to redouble their efforts to form Innovators and Efficiency Experts Committees in the centers of production and services where they do not yet exist but have the conditions for them.

1.6 Economic Management and Planning System

There has been unquestionable progress in the application of the SDPE [Economic Management and Planning System]. Its consolidation and improvement will

greatly contribute to the growth of productivity, the more rational use of resources, improvement of quality, the profitability of enterprises and, in short, the achievement of greater efficiency and the development of economic awareness in the workers and leaders.

1.6.1 Workers' Participation in Elaboration, Discussion of Plans

The union movement has taken important steps to provide the workers with knowledge of the basic principles of the SDPE, particularly in reference to elaboration of the plan because of its governing function in economic activity. However, there is still much to be done in this task.

The effective participation of the workers in the elaboration and discussion of the plans has been affected by the limited time available for the assembly process. Delays in the breakdown of the control figures in the plans for enterprises and establishments have affected this. In some cases, incomplete plans that lack some of the approved categories have been submitted for the consideration of the workers. All this is reflected in poor quality in the preparation and development of those assemblies.

Although the limited material resources that often prevent using certain suggestions contributed in the assemblies are known, nothing explains not offering the appropriate response in each case. This situation generates justified anger among the workers who feel that their opinions and suggestions are not respected. This conspires against the objective of achieving their more active and conscientious participation in planning and everything involved in economic management.

Based on the analysis and reasoning of all the above, the 15th CTC Congress must appeal to the unions to:

Redouble their efforts to support the tasks of the SDPE, emphasizing the fight for economic efficiency in order to make all the enterprises profitable and fulfill and overfulfill the revenue specified in the plan;

Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee correct preparation for the assemblies to discuss the plans and strict control of the opinions and suggestions contributed by the workers which must be included in the plans or be given a convincing public response; and

Encourage the work to train the workers and union leaders in the mechanisms of the SDPE and their parts through conferences and seminars.

1.6.2 Material Stimulation Fund

Another important element of the SDPE is the Material Stimulation Fund. It began in 1979 and has gradually been authorized in the enterprises. It is now in 976 of them. Its consistent application has revealed new productive reserves and has strengthened the interest of the workers in the results of economic management.

It should be pointed out, however, that there are problems concerning the knowledge that the workers as well as the union and administrative leaders must have about the requirements for attaining and distributing this reward. This has been evident in many places. Some enterprise regulations are so complicated that the workers have difficulty understanding them. Another problem detected in the enterprises is the indiscriminate use of the same indicators to award the bonuses and the reward, ignoring the fact that winning the reward must be more directly tied to the achievement of greater economic efficiency in the enterprise.

It should be pointed out that the enterprises that established material stimulation funds face problems in the execution of sociocultural measures and the construction of housing, social clubs and sports installations due to the limited material resources available. It is necessary to find ways to resolve this situation.

Because of the above, the 15th CTC Congress must demand energetic action by the unions to:

Encourage expedition and improvement of the methodological documents and regulations referring to the rewards and stimulate publicity among the workers concerning the mechanisms for formation and distribution; and

Analyze with the responsible organisms and enterprises the implementation of planning mechanisms that permit the efficient use of the funds for sociocultural measures.

1.6.8 Sideline Production

Although the production plan is the basic objective of the work center and its fulfillment in value and physical units is the main motto of the collective, sideline production is also one of the elements established in the mechanisms of the SDPE to encourage optimal exploitation of the material resources. A wide variety of articles that help satisfy certain demands of the people can be made from production scraps. In some cases, they can be exported, thereby constituting an additional source of revenue in foreign currency for the country. The development of this activity also creates new jobs.

Because of its growing importance for our economy, the 15th CTC Congress must exhort the unions to:

Work with the administrations to encourage the organization and development of sideline production.

1.7 From Each According to His Ability, to Each According to His Work

1.7.1 Work Organization

An irreplaceable means of achieving increased productivity is work organization. Its basic elements include work standardization through which it is possible to determine the individual contribution of each worker in the

production process. Of course, work standardization must also be developed in the service sector since the quality of service to our working people depends to a great extent on it.

In recent years during the application of the General Wage Reform and with the conscious participation of the workers, there has been intense work to update those standards that were outmoded. They reflect the average of current fulfillment. The regulation approved by the State Committee for Labor and Social Security at the end of last year must help improve the quality of work standardization.

Today we can point out that, as a result of the progressive application of Basic Work Organization and the appropriate forms and systems of payment, more than a million workers in the production and service spheres receive wages based on their work yield. In other words, the application of the principle of distribution based on the quality and quantity of work is in full development. It is a process that must be continually improved.

Consistent with the above, the 15th CTC Congress must energetically call for:

Strong support for the tasks aimed at the encouragement, consolidation, development and improvement of Basic Work Organization, particularly standardization as the basis for measuring work and its just reward;

Promotion of the optimal use of technicians in work organization and standardization in their specialized activities, concretely studies to reduce losses of time in the labor process to the minimum. This will have a positive effect on better organization and exploitation of the work force and, consequently, better yield. To achieve these objectives, the vanguard methods used by the distinguished workers and the initiatives of the innovators and efficiency experts as well as the most experienced workers must be taken into account; and

Support for the ongoing studies to improve the payment systems through the introduction of piecework in industry and other production sectors.

1.7.2 Bonus Systems

The bonus systems have been another mechanism of stimulation to strengthen the fight for conservation, production quality and greater efficiency in service. The economic results obtained in the agricultural, industrial, transportation and other sectors demonstrate the correctness of the application of the bonus systems. The role they have played in the growth of productivity is also obvious.

The special bonuses for fuel conservation in industry have saved the country thousands of tons of fuel. This is true for other sectors also. There are many examples of bonus systems whose results are encouraging.

However, we must not omit the fact that there have been poorly elaborated bonus systems, outdated regulations and, in some cases, inadequate supervision of their results. We have also learned of bonus systems which are hard to

understand or that have practically unattainable indicators. This does not motivate the workers.

The 15th CTC Congress must reaffirm the importance of:

Helping draw up bonus regulations to facilitate their comprehension by the workers;

Fighting to give priority to the application of special bonuses for conservation of fuel and electricity and the guarantee and development of exportable stock; and

Advocating the adoption of measures to achieve an increase in the flexible part of the wage through the improvement and expansion of the bonus system and the development of payment for yield. This flexible part must constitute at least 15 percent to 25 percent of the total wage.

1.7.3 General Wage Reform

The application of the reform in 1980 helped increase productivity which has been the basic factor in increased production. This measure made it possible to increase the average wage by about 14.9 percent which represented about 22 pesos per worker. The average wage in the production sector became higher than the average wage in the nonproductive sector.

However, we must point out that these achievements would have been greater if the commitments made for a substantial increase in productivity--which conditioned the application of the General Wage Reform--had been fulfilled in more places.

For technical workers, the General Wage Reform introduced the concept of payment for work results. This has contributed to a more rational use of this work force which already includes 20 percent of all the workers in the country.

With respect to empirical technicians, there is still a serious delay in implementation of their certification which has impeded their wage increases. This becomes more acute for older technicians with proven labor experience who are in the same situation since the corresponding transactions with the State Committee for Labor and Social Security to authorize their wage increase have not been carried out.

The 15th CTC Congress must speak out to:

Fight to fulfill the commitments adopted to increase productivity as a condition for the application of the General Wage Reform; and

Carry out the steps to obtain authorization for wage increases for the older empirical technicians with proven labor experience as well as the elaboration and execution of study programs for those who need certification.

1.7.4 Occupational Requirements for Laborers, Service Workers

The lack of a systematic updating of the Occupational Requirements for Laborers and Service Workers has caused them to be outdated compared to the development of equipment, technology and work organization. This situation has become worse since there are thousands of new occupations approved by the State Committee for Labor and Social Security for certain enterprises. They have not been reproduced and distributed in sufficient quantities. This has made their application impossible in other places where similar occupations exist.

The 15th CTC Congress must emphasize the need to:

Promote periodic updating of the Occupational Requirements for Laborers and Service Workers to adequately correspond to the development of equipment, technology and work organization. Also the compilation and publication of the new occupations approved in recent years by the State Committee for Labor and Social Security must be strongly emphasized.

1.7.5 Abnormal Working Conditions

There is delay in the completion of studies to determine what jobs have abnormal working conditions in order to eliminate these conditions where feasible or otherwise analyze possible payment to the workers who work under these conditions.

The 15th CTC Congress must speak out to:

Promote prompt completion of the studies on abnormal conditions in those enterprises, budgeted units and establishments where they have not yet been completed. Where these conditions exist, they must either be eliminated or the application of the corresponding wages must be evaluated.

1.8 Volunteer Work

The decisions on volunteer work adopted at the 13th and 14th CTC Congresses have substantially helped improve its organization, development and supervision. The regulations dictated under the SDPE which require the enterprises to strictly supervise the volunteer work used and immediately pay its value to the unions have been an invaluable contribution.

However, these achievements do not negate the fact that deficiencies in organization and use as well as in payment for volunteer work persist, basically because of lack of demand by the union movement and administrative negligence.

There are places where there is indiscriminate use of volunteer work to cover up administrative deficiencies. Cases where the workers are mobilized without the agreement of the assembly or without creating the indispensable organizational conditions for it to be effective are not unusual. Organizational deficiencies become accentuated when those workers are mobilized to other places where what is going to be done has not been stipulated. This means poor use of the workday and, therefore, low yield in the work done. In some cases, it

does not correspond to the expenses incurred, mainly for transportation. The lack of minimal attention to the participants is not unusual.

In the places and times when these things occur, there is just anger among the workers. This use of volunteer work means a waste of resources and does not contribute to the objective that it form communist awareness in the workers.

However, the deficiencies indicated--which we must eliminate--have not kept the working class, the workers in general and all the people from giving repeated evidence of their advanced revolutionary and communist awareness and responding en masse as many times as necessary to the call for volunteer work.

It suffices to cite their determined, conscientious and enthusiastic participation in: the effort to make up for lags in the economic plans; mobilizations for agriculture; the port-transportation-domestic economy chain; saving human lives; and the protection of production and service installations and social projects and housing. Finally, we must point out the extraordinary work done by the construction workers to strengthen the defense of the country against any attempted imperialist aggression.

Now more than ever, it is indispensable to make a greater sustained effort in volunteer work. This is a call by the fatherland which has suffered the disastrous consequences of natural phenomena in addition to the effects of the adverse international economic situation.

In consideration of all the above, the 15th CTC Congress must appeal so that:

The constant willingness of the workers to do volunteer work is channeled through the unions with greater organization and efficiency to achieve positive economic, political and social results;

The application of the established coordination with the administrations and discussion in meetings and assemblies with the workers concerning the work to be done before mobilization for volunteer work are strengthened; and

The enterprises that will receive contributions from volunteer workers first determine the work content and guarantee the indispensable working conditions and payment of the wages to the union for the work done within the established time period.

The 15th CTC Congress can proclaim with all confidence that the free volunteer work for the good of the economy and to form communist awareness has taken root in our workers and all the people, always ready to do it at any time, in any place and under any conditions that the revolution asks. This constitutes constant homage to its precursor and maximum promoter, the unforgettable Heroic Warrior, Com Ernesto Che Guevara.

Due to its extraordinary significance, not only materially but also in the development of our revolutionary awareness, we reaffirm the firm determination to always answer the call that comrade Fidel makes to us to "never neglect volunteer work."

[19 Aug 83 pp 4, 5]

[Text] II. Some Forms of Worker Participation in Economic Management

The decisions adopted at the 13th and 14th CTC Congresses substantially helped improve the organization, development and supervision of emulation. In 1980, based on the experiences and opinions of the unions and the CTC in the provinces, it was agreed to only keep as indicators for the Socialist Emulation for Historic Dates those directly related to the technical-economic plans and labor discipline. Analysis of the reduction of the frequency and seriousness of work accidents is also included as a conditioning factor in evaluating the fulfillment of the workers and the emulation units.

The creation of enterprises and budgeted units as basic links of the SDPE has greatly helped adapt the emulation plans to the concrete conditions and aspirations of each place. Application of the established material incentives has contributed to the achievement of a better balance between these and moral incentives although it is necessary to continue working for improvement.

There has been greater understanding and awareness about the need for the emulation to be based on concrete measurable economic objectives. The greater understanding of the correctness of this concept is expressed in the fact that, in the collective part of the Socialist Emulation for Historic Dates, the selected indicators of the technical-economic plan are the basis for the commitments to be fulfilled. With respect to the individual part, each worker signs commitments directly related to his economic activity. In both cases, of course, everything related to labor discipline is included.

In recent years, the number of emulation units and workers participating in and fulfilling the socialist emulation has increased.

Because of its importance, we must also point out the different emulation forms that are increasing. Their highly encouraging results are seen in the work of the unions. We mean the so-called microemulations and special emulations in which the unions select the activities on which the greatest effort must be concentrated at a given stage based on the requirements of our economy and the existing peculiarities and possibilities of each enterprise, establishment and budgeted unit.

However, in some cases there is inadequate correspondence between the indicators of the Socialist Emulation for Historic Dates and those of the microemulations. This is particularly reflected in the excessive number of indicators in the microemulations, some of which do not correspond to the real objectives we must propose to achieve through the emulation.

The advances achieved in socialist emulation do not negate the fact that deficiencies in organization and development persist in some places. The emulation plans do not have the proper quality. The collective and individual commitments are not regularly evaluated in production or service assemblies and assemblies of representatives. Microemulations are not organized between brigades, sections, departments or work shifts. Interoffice meetings and exchanges

of experiences have not been developed with the required dynamism. The indispensable publicity has not been given to the emulation and the awards ceremonies at the end of the partial and final evaluations have not been given the requisite solemnity. There are sectors or branches that have not promoted an emulation between enterprises, budgeted units and establishments with similar activities.

There are situations where the technical-economic plans are lower than the production capacity of certain enterprises or establishments. Therefore, it does not require much effort to fulfill them. We don't feel it is senseless to organize an emulation in these cases. The results of the emulation should not be measured only in physical terms but also--and basically in this stage we are facing--they must be measured in economic terms. In other words, it is not just a matter of how much we produce but at what cost and with what quality. It is not just a matter of fulfilling the plan. In addition to being fulfilled, it must be fulfilled with quality and a substantial savings in resources. These are very concrete objectives of the emulation which are closely related to our current objectives.

There might be work centers where it would not be particularly meritorious to fulfill the plan in physical units but to fulfill it with quality and a substantial savings in available resources would constitute a major achievement. The emulation will have to emphasize precisely those two indicators.

For all the reasons noted above, we must confirm the following objectives as the basic context of the socialist emulation:

- a) To fight a resolute battle to make the enterprises profitable and efficient and to fulfill and overfulfill the revenue plan;
- b) To redouble efforts to fulfill the production and service plans, increase productivity, reduce costs and constantly increase production quality, emphasizing exports and replacement of imports as well as substantial improvement in all services;
- c) To promote the fight for conservation of raw materials, materials, fuel and lubricants as well as for the production and recovery of spare parts;
- d) To stimulate the successful development of the movement of innovators and efficiency experts; and
- e) To strengthen labor discipline and reduce the number of work accidents.

In consideration of all the above and in appreciation of the great significance of the socialist emulation as a way to mobilize the workers toward the fulfillment of such important tasks, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out strongly to:

Improve the emulation through the active participation of the workers, led by their unions, in elaborating the plans and signing their individual and collective emulation commitments and in supervision, systematic evaluation and constant publicity, using various means like assemblies, murals, places of honor, galleries, the press, etc.;

Continue developing microemulations in brigades, shops, departments, shifts, establishments, districts, enterprises and budgeted units as well as among the collectives themselves, making sure there is close correspondence between the microemulation and the socialist emulation;

Encourage the special emulations for savings, quality, increased productivity, profitability and other indicators related to economic efficiency with the priority they deserve;

Revitalize and expand interoffice meetings and exchanges of experiences at all levels as a way to spread the methods that the vanguard workers apply;

Guarantee the correct evaluation of the emulation results and the celebration of public solemn ceremonies where the corresponding incentives are presented to the winning workers and collectives; and

Continue fighting for a better tie between moral and material incentives.

2.2 Production and Service Assemblies

The production and service assemblies constitute an important form of participation by the workers in economic management. The application of the SDPE has strengthened the role of these assemblies by making it possible to measure fulfillment of the plans, not only in physical terms but also--and more importantly--in terms of economic efficiency. In other words, we have the necessary conditions to analyze and evaluate productivity and its relationship with the average wage as well as costs, profitability, revenue, fulfillment of the material consumption standards and other indicators of efficiency. In the budgeted units, these assemblies are an irreplaceable way to examine the administrative management to learn the degree of efficiency in the use of the planned budget and the improvement in the quality of service.

Despite observing achievements in these assemblies, both in quality as well as in supervision of their results, we cannot be satisfied as long as there are still assemblies that debate secondary problems and do not go in depth into the main problems in our work centers, as long as there are assemblies where the problems that affect the fulfillment of the production or service plans are not discussed, where concrete and precise responses to the statements made by the participants are not promoted and, in short, where debate and firm and resolute action by the workers are not stimulated.

As to the assemblies of representatives, the experiences accumulated made it advisable that they become permanent. In other words, whomever the workers elect to represent them must be given a term that can last for an equal period as that of the leaders of the union bureau and section. This will make it possible for these comrades to achieve some continuity, acquire experience and have more participation which decisively influences the depth of these assemblies.

Due to everything expressed above, the 15th CTC Congress must appeal to the unions to:

Adopt as many measures as necessary to prepare the production and service assemblies with the proper quality in order to motivate the active participation of the workers in the analysis and resolution of the problems that affect the normal development of the work centers, particularly in reference to the production and service plans, work organization, financial and material expenses and economic efficiency;

Demand that the administrations make their reports clearly reflect the results of economic management, including labor discipline, so that they can be understood by all the workers;

Redouble efforts so that all the agreements adopted in those assemblies be fulfilled or so that the workers are given adequate and convincing responses by the appropriate people;

Increase the role of the assemblies of representatives in order to achieve, through the broad participation of the workers, an exhaustive analysis and the contribution of initiatives related to the production plan, quality, savings, increased productivity, maintenance, labor discipline, costs, revenue, profitability and other economic categories; and

Promote regular conferences and seminars that help increase knowledge of the principles of the SDPE among their members.

2.3 Collective Work Agreements

An important form of worker participation in economic management is the collective work agreements. Beginning in 1974, there has been work with the state organisms so that the enterprises and budgeted units annually agree on collective work agreements. However, there are some places where they have not been signed by the administration and others where they exist but are not supervised or required to be fulfilled. There are centers that had these agreements but the administrations lacked the legal power to fulfill them. On the other hand, in many cases the union organizations have not been demanding enough concerning these agreements and their fulfillment.

The situations indicated above led the Council of State to promulgate a decree-law regulating the obligations of the enterprises, budgeted units and other entities.

Therefore, the 15th CTC Congress must make a call:

That the unions demand collective work agreements in all the enterprises, budgeted units and other economic entities and watch over their strict fulfillment with systematic evaluations.

III. Work Safety and Hygiene

The 13th and 14th CTC Congresses spoke out to considerably increase the role of the union organization in work safety and hygiene. Also Law No. 13 gave us wideranging prerogatives concerning this.

However, the union work in this sector is still unsatisfactory.

In general, the union leaders have not been demanding in the analysis and solution of the problems of work safety and hygiene. This means that we have still not acquired complete awareness of the importance of this task.

We have also been weak in demanding compliance with the law, the regulations, standards, rules and other documents on safety and hygiene. We have been weak in our participation in the elaboration of the plans for measures and supervision over the use of the resources allocated for this activity. We have been weak in the analysis of the causes for work accidents and in the discussion of and demand for compliance with the measures that try to eliminate the deficiencies that cause them. We have been weak in the demand for the good use, care and maintenance of individual safety devices, etc.

There are also negligent, undisciplined workers who do not comply with the requirements established in the safety and hygiene rules, who do not make adequate use of the safety devices given to them to protect them from risks that might exist in their factories or jobs. As a result of this attitude inconsistent with our legislation, there are an increased number of work accidents that we must rue year after year which have a corresponding effect on our economy.

In the socialist society which has the happiness of man as its objective, the consistent and systematic fight for his health, his physical and mental integrity and his life constitutes an unavoidable duty. This is stated in the Programmatic Platform of the party, the Socialist Constitution of the Republic and the resolutions of the 13th and 14th CTC Congresses and in the union congresses.

To achieve these lofty objectives, the state, through the necessary legal provisions, has stipulated the obligations of the administrations concerning work safety and hygiene and has allocated massive resources each year for the systematic improvement of working conditions, the prevention of accidents and occupational diseases and the acquisition of individual and collective safety devices. The maximum expression of that policy is contained in Law No. 13 on work safety and hygiene.

Both the First and Second Party Congress discussed in depth the situation of this sector. The Politburo adopted major agreements at its meeting on 29 October 1981 aimed at the improvement of all tasks related to work safety and hygiene.

Since 1980 there has been a slight decline in the accident rate. It went down about 3 percent between 1981 and 1982 and the number of days lost dropped about 324,500. There were 308 fatal accidents in 1982 which means an insignificant decline compared to previous years.

Even though work accidents including fatal accidents and the number of days lost have decreased, this situation continues to be alarming. The analysis, control and decrease in the number of accidents must be the main problem to be resolved.

Despite the attention given to this sector by the superior leadership levels in the administration and the unions, there are still deficiencies that limit the effectiveness of these efforts. The majority of the work accidents are caused by irresponsibility, negligence, insensitivity, lack of discipline and lack of administrative and union demand for compliance with existing regulations.

Evaluating the deterioration in the work environment, it has been possible to verify that the main causes include lack of maintenance and proper repairs of installations and equipment, lack of neatness and cleanliness, lack of tools and equipment and lack or neglect of sanitary facilities, lockers and drinking fountains. The lack of safety devices, adequate illumination, paint and other necessary materials for the proper maintenance of the sites and machinery can be added to these. Although it is true that the lack of certain material resources might influence the present situation, it is equally true that some administrations hide behind this to cover up their mismanagement, negligence and insensitivity, causing problems that affect the safety, health and life of the workers.

These deficiencies must not be permitted to endanger physical integrity or cause the irreparable loss of human lives, carrying grief to the homes of workers. Facing that reality, the workers and their unions must fight an open battle against everything that causes accidents and demand the application of disciplinary measures or penal sanctions, depending on the law, against those responsible.

In consideration of all the above, the 15th CTC Congress must fight hard so that the unions:

Constantly redouble their efforts to demand complete compliance with everything established in Law No. 13 on work safety and hygiene and its regulations;

Participate actively in the planning and distribution of resources allocated for work safety and hygiene, offering opinions on existing priorities and needs for prevention and the improvement of working conditions as well as demanding stipulation of these resources in the plan;

Continue working for improvement of safe and hygienic working conditions, actively participating in all the phases that correspond to the functions of the union organization as well as increasing its role in supervision of existing legislation and the integral program;

Incorporate in their work plans and carry out the tie between all the workers and technicians and the search for solutions to the problems that create unsafe conditions for the workers;

Demand the good use, care and maintenance of individual safety devices and fire prevention, watching that the corresponding norms are carried out and these devices are correctly distributed and stored. They must also fight hard against the tendency of some workers to get rid of safety devices, giving them unauthorized use;

Develop on a massive basis social inspections by the unions through the organization of Safety and Hygiene Committees made up of social inspectors subordinate to the union bureau and executive secretariat. These committees will exercise direct control over work hygiene and safety conditions in the entities as well as the organization and development of technical and professional union inspections;

Systematically carry out self-inspections in all the jobs and work centers to verify compliance with existing legislation on work safety and hygiene, fighting for the solution of deficiencies detected;

Participate in the investigation of work accidents and occupational diseases and demand that their causes as well as measures to prevent their repetition be analyzed in the Management Council and reported to the workers;

Supervise and demand completion of preemployment and periodic medical examinations of the workers;

Demand fulfillment of the training plans of the workers and administrative leaders which include work safety and hygiene regulations; and

Support training and retraining for workers who have limitations in fulfilling the functions of their jobs as well as relocation to other jobs.

IV. Some Labor and Social Problems

4.1 Labor Discipline

We cannot limit discipline in the work center to arriving and departing on time. Discipline is also reflected in exploitation of the workday, compliance with production or service standards with quality, application of material consumption standards, rational use of instruments, equipment, machinery and installations and attention to the safety and hygiene standards. It is easy to understand how discipline has a decisive effect on productivity, savings, quality, the reduction of costs and prevention of work accidents.

Discipline in the work collective is demonstrated in mutual respect between the workers and the leaders and among the workers themselves as well as for the consumers of services through the good treatment we offer them.

The administration that represents the interests of our revolutionary state in the work center has the duty to demand strict observance of the legal provisions aimed at preserving labor discipline. In turn, the workers and their unions must energetically support the administration in that just policy.

In his closing speech to the 14th CTC Congress, our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, stated: "Therefore, it is necessary to be demanding. It is necessary to criticize demagoguery and weakness and tell the administrator: be demanding of me. Tell him be demanding of me because that is your duty. If you are not demanding of me, you are not a good administrator. Because the working class, the worker, the laborer, do not need buddies administering; they do not need them."

The socialist society uses persuasive and educational methods as a basic instrument. However, it has the duty to have certain legal norms and use them against those who do not respect the interests of their own work comrades and society and openly violate discipline. However, the educational objective of a socialist society is still present in this case.

In our country, the violation of labor discipline was localized in small groups of workers, many of whom violated disciplinary norms regularly. The worst thing was that their conduct seriously hindered the formative work of the youths who were just starting out as workers. This situation was evident in the final years of the last decade.

The great mass of workers, honest and fulfilling their duties, was indignant when it saw how those violators acted with impunity. Our revolutionary administration lacked legal mechanisms to promptly confront those actions.

The Constitution of the Republic establishes that the state organs, their leaders, officials and employees have the obligation to strictly observe socialist legality and watch over it.

Everything related to labor discipline was the subject of in-depth analysis and agreements at the 13th and 14th CTC Congresses as well as the 8th Plenum of the Central Committee of the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] held in May 1979.

Consequently, the Council of State dictated Decree-Law No. 32 and Decree-Law No. 36 which made it possible to adopt practical and immediate measures to strengthen discipline both in the conduct of the workers as well as the administrative leaders.

It should be pointed out that, during the initial stage of effect of Decree-Law No. 32, there was excessive strictness in its application. It was generally used to get rid of workers who had committed a small violation. In many cases, their labor background was not properly considered. After this situation was analyzed, corrective measures were adopted.

However, administrative deficiencies persist. When there is no punishment when due or when inadequate measures are applied, the corrective effect is not achieved. On the contrary, when there is excessive strictness in sanctions, this is unjust and causes natural disagreement among the workers. It also leads to modification or annulment of the measure by the courts and the corresponding compensation that is not paid by the person who dictated the arbitrary measure but by the budget of the entity he directs which means the people.

As to Decree-Law No. 36, in many cases it is not applied as it should be to administrative officials and leaders who have shown lack of discipline. This naturally causes disagreement among the workers. This has improved somewhat although situations of this type are still seen.

It is undeniable that if the lack of administrative discipline tolerates the violation of existing norms by the workers, the lack of administrative

discipline also violates the rights that labor and social legislation contain to benefit them. Although it is right to say that these actions have diminished, they still occur. These involve vacation planning, failure to observe the legal provisions related to evaluations, incorrect record of time of service and wages, failure to include the certificates of evaluations in the files and even the loss of files or failure to make files for new workers. The admission of new workers into the labor collective without the corresponding contracts or contracts which do not stipulate the rights and duties of the parties is not unusual. There are also cases where certain established conditions like allowances, work schedules and wage payment dates are changed unilaterally, causing unnecessary conflicts.

In order to develop efforts that help strengthen discipline among the workers as well as respect for their rights, there have been seminars and study circles recently with union leaders and workers to give them the necessary knowledge on the main provisions of the labor and social legislation. The corresponding materials were drawn up for that objective. Although the results of this activity have been positive, it must be recognized that what has been done so far is inadequate.

Interpreting the above correctly, the 15th CTC Congress must make a strong appeal to the workers and the unions to offer their most determined support to Decree Law No. 32 and Decree-Law No. 36 and the consistent use of the measures in them as valuable legal instruments that have the objective of strengthening labor discipline for the normal functioning of our work centers and as a safeguard for the legitimate interests of all the workers and society. The unions in particular will redouble their persuasive and educational work to contribute to the increased education of the workers in the spirit of strict observance of labor discipline as an integral part of our socialist morality.

The 15th CTC Congress must urge expedition of actions aimed at achieving prompt promulgation of a legal norm for the rehabilitation of workers who have carried out disciplinary sanctions. This will be a formative factor of extraordinary importance.

The 15th CTC Congress must demand that the CTC and the unions continue their work to train union leaders and the workers in everything involving labor and social legislation through courses, seminars, etc.

Finally, the 15th CTC Congress must appeal to the CTC and the unions to continue confronting resolutely--as is their duty--the problems that affect the rights of the workers, demand the appropriate solution in each case and continue giving special attention to preventing their repetition.

4.1.1 Disciplinary Regulations

As a complementary mechanism to help strengthen discipline, the organisms of the Central State Administration, in coordination with the respective national unions, established branch disciplinary regulations. They outline the general guidelines that serve as the basis for the enterprises and budgeted units to draw up and implement their internal disciplinary regulations.

The corresponding unions participate in drawing up these regulations. Their implementation is subject to the prior approval of the workers in assemblies. These regulations have already gone into effect in many enterprises and play an essential role in strengthening discipline and in the formation and development of labor habits appropriate to our society of workers.

For all these reasons, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out for the establishment of these valuable disciplinary instruments in all the enterprises and budgeted units, promote their widespread publicity and study and demand that the administrations use them properly. It must also appeal to the workers and their unions to watch over their observance and continual improvement.

4.2 Union Inspections

In recent years, facing the need to increase control over compliance with labor legislation, union inspections have started.

There is no legislation yet that implements the right to and objectives of union inspections except in the area of work safety and hygiene. However, this has received the enthusiastic approval of the workers and favorable acceptance by the administrations which have cooperated in the development of this form of union work.

Union inspections have included objectives of control related to certain aspects of labor legislation affected by lack of compliance. The results have been very beneficial since they have helped correct irregularities and also train union leaders in the mastery of that legislation.

The 15th CTC Congress must fight to establish the legal basis for this union practice.

4.3 Labor Councils

Since 1980, the Labor Councils have experienced a readjustment since Social Security proceedings as well as violations of labor discipline have been passed on to the administration. Any conflict related to labor rights remains in their jurisdiction.

Although it is undeniable that they have provided invaluable service to our society in the labor sector since their creation, it is equally true that there have been problems in operations, stability among their cadres, training and the attention that the union movement must give them.

The union movement must organize the Labor Councils, train and certify their members and watch over their correct functioning. In this way, we help avoid situations of incompetence or violations of the law. The CTC and the unions must continually pursue these objectives.

Because of the above, the 15th CTC Congress must stress that it is the responsibility of the workers and their union organizations to supervise the proper functioning of the Labor Councils and demand from the administrations

the best conditions for the normal development of their activities. They must also keep prestigious and experienced comrades on them, stimulate efficiency in their work, train their members and defend their stability.

4.4 Labor Code

The economic and social guidelines for the 5-year period 1981-85 approved by the Second PCC Congress state that "there must be work on codification of labor legislation to draw up a Labor Code."

When the workers discussed the Theses of the 14th CTC Congress and during that great union congress, the proposal to draw up a Labor Code was endorsed. The objective was to legally reorganize labor relations in accord with the structural and economic changes carried out in the country.

Conditions have been favorable for this just aspiration since the bill for the Labor Code has been written. It will be discussed with all the workers in the country at the appropriate time.

The 15th CTC Congress must speak out to hold this discussion with the workers with the depth and responsibility that a task of that importance demands.

4.5 Other Aspects of Social Interest

4.5.1 Worker Dining Rooms

The worker dining rooms have priority in the measures adopted by the revolution to improve the working conditions and standard of living of the workers.

There are about 8,000 of these installations now which provide service to more than 800,000 workers.

Since the beginning of 1981, changes have been implemented to improve the service offered and help eliminate the waste of products observed in these installations.

The system of a choice of products contributes to providing social food service within the framework of our realities. The savings achieved--approximately one-third of the food products--would be sufficient endorsement for this method. It also helps increase quality, hygiene, balance in the foods offered and variety.

The 15th CTC Congress must exhort the union movement to continue lending its support to the implementation, consolidation and extension of this system, to fight for improved quality in preparing its products and to encourage more areas for self-supply where the appropriate conditions exist.

4.5.2 Work Clothes

Given the limited resources, there have been difficulties in the distribution of work clothes and shoes. Priority has been given now to distribution to laborers. The other occupational categories are being analyzed.

The 15th CTC Congress must emphasize the need for the unions to demand strict compliance with the distribution of work clothes and shoes based on the priorities established. They must also promote the study of needs based on the specific conditions of agriculture, construction, industry and other branches that require these items.

4.5.3 Housing

The 14th CTC Congress discussed the housing problem and spoke out for support for construction plans, the development of state brigades and forms of distribution.

Our government has continued to give attention to the housing problem. Efforts have been limited by the shortage of materials and equipment that must be imported for which the necessary resources are not available.

At the call of the unions, thousands of workers have voluntarily participated in housing construction through microbrigades. As a result of this labor effort, thousands of new housing units were built throughout the country for our working people.

It should be pointed out, however, that the maintenance that the old buildings and those of more recent construction require is still very weak.

During this development of housing construction, variations have appeared in the provinces as to methods for building housing, ideas for materials, the use of a construction force and distribution tied to each territory's situation.

The 15th CTC Congress must speak out in favor of the efforts that the country is making to find variations that offer answers to this situation to the degree that our economic circumstances permit it and in relation to the most appropriate and just methods of distribution.

4.6 The Working Woman

The working woman now represents more than one-third of the total active labor force in our country.

To consolidate and continue increasing the occupational levels of women based on our possibilities, measures have been dictated and special guidelines issued that watch over her work to promote the complete exercise of women's equality.

Therefore, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out to actively promote compliance with all those measures, particularly directing their efforts toward:

Demanding that the established regulations on the determination of preferential jobs for women and their right to hold them are complied with;

Continuing the fight for the proper participation of women in the courses for professional formation and technical training;

Achieving greater female representation in the intermediate and superior levels of leadership of the CTC and its unions and, at the same time, influencing the administrations to help women share the responsibilities of state leadership with men;

Continuing to develop the Union Assets for Working Women, an important way to help solve the problems that affect them; and

Demanding the proper treatment of the working woman through the union sections, considering the social role she plays, her labor obligation, motherhood, child-rearing and care of the family.

[22 Aug 83, pp 4, 5]

[Text] The union movement must act energetically against harmful and repugnant signs of illegal enrichment, corruption and crime which oppose the norms that prevail in our society and have nothing to do with socialism or our principles. We must not stop acting and fighting against them even though they are few in number.

The administration must improve and reinforce control and supervision of every economic and labor activity.

There are unscrupulous elements that try to obtain easy money by resorting to distortions, cheating, forgery, shady business and every type of criminal action.

Every worker must be vigilant toward any action or omission that promotes lack of control, waste or improper allocations of state resources. Criminal elements can operate behind these seemingly negligent actions. The demand to fight these actions must come from the workers themselves.

We must be zealous in watching over the security and protection measures of our work centers. Those who try to violate or do violate these can facilitate the appropriation of collective or private goods by individuals in detriment to the real interests of the workers. Organization and discipline are premises for labor efficiency and social order.

It is also necessary to exploit the resources we have to the maximum. We cannot permit, through the carelessness of a few, that the means of rotation or some needed products are "mislaid" or lost through lack of control, supervision and proper care.

We must be alert to the signs of isolated elements who exploit the "surpluses" to sell them without authorization and keep the cash or payment in kind.

The presence of some who enrich themselves by cheating in the weight of merchandise and lining their pockets from the illegal sale of products cannot be countenanced.

Other criminal activities also occur in the repair of small appliances, automotive shops and similar services. There are cases of persons who request

these services at state enterprises and are told it is impossible to accede to their request, alleging a lack of parts or other pretexts. Inexplicably, they then immediately receive a proposal right there from some of the workers themselves that, if they request their personal services during nonworking hours, the problem could be solved. The parts and solutions appear.

It is not hard to see how many immoral and illegal acts are hidden behind all this. It is unacceptable that some workers do not react strongly to these acts.

We have also known of dubious handling of wage funds in enterprises and units by the personnel directly connected to the payroll. They appropriate wages through the creation of phantom personnel, illegal contracts, wages not paid to internationalists, etc.

These are some examples--among many others--that we could cite concerning the presence of negative tendencies which we must root out from our society. They are like a little piece of rotten fruit which, if it is not torn out by the root, eventually rots all the fruit.

Our society, of course, cannot be tolerant toward these actions or impulsive toward these elements that act in violation of our laws, unabashedly exploit the slightest opportunity to commit a crime and try to corrupt the weak to keep their antisocial actions from being denounced.

Unfortunately, we occasionally see comrades with a magnificent past of work and sacrifice who, through a false concept of fellowship or friendship, become accomplices in antisocial and criminal activities that hurt their own work comrades.

Measures have been taken to end this and the workers and the union movement support them.

There is a struggle to improve the services provided in the state enterprises and to dignify the work of the workers in these entities who are honest and faithful fulfillers of their duties. The mechanisms of distribution, inspection and supervision have been reinforced and, of course, violators of our laws will be treated sternly and inflexibly.

If some of our laws leave room for crime or favor impunity in such actions, we will revise the laws because the laws have not been written to protect criminals but to protect society.

We declare war without quarter against parasites, embezzlers, thieves and anything that can cause or encourage their antisocial activity.

No fellowship, no complacency, no cronyism, nothing or no one can shake our firm determination to eliminate this situation.

These actions committed by a small number of people contrast with the unselfishness, disinterest and labor heroism of hundreds of thousands of workers,

cutters, construction workers, doctors, nurses, teachers and others who receive a modest wage for their work but do extraordinary tasks through volunteer work and provide internationalist aid to other fraternal peoples, at times at the risk of their life.

Corresponding to the above, the 15th CTC Congress must appeal to all the workers and their unions to develop energetic and systematic action against these elements who behave in violation of socialist morality and legality and against the things that cause them to act this way.

These negative tendencies can never prosper in a country of workers characterized by their sobriety, austerity, generosity and spirit of sacrifice.

VI. Education, Culture, Sports and Recreation

As an essential part of the process of building socialism in our country, the enormous efforts and the extraordinary successes achieved in education, culture, sports and recreation of the workers and our people stand out. These constitute decisive factors for the progressive improvement of their material and spiritual living conditions based on the policy outlined by the PCC.

6.1 Educational Advancement

Within the context of the educational policy, the fight for the advancement of the workers to complete elementary levels of education, enter polytechnical centers where they are trained as skilled workers or intermediate-level technicians or continue in higher education or enter other training courses has singular importance due to its direct effect on the economic and social development of the country.

Aware of its mission, the Cuban union movement has participated in these important tasks and is preparing to redouble its efforts in these educational undertakings with the aid, advice and decisive participation of the state organisms and institutions involved in this sector. The joint action of all these factors will mean better work and a more rational use of the massive material and human resources allocated by the revolution for educational tasks.

As a result of the effort made in recent years, the union movement--with the close collaboration of other mass organizations and state organisms--victoriously fulfilled the commitment made to the party and Fidel in the battle for sixth grade.

6.1.1 Battle for Ninth Grade

Although the extraordinary successes achieved until now in the advancement of the educational level of the workers are obvious, the new battle for ninth grade--due to its greater complexity--requires the application of special measures that guarantee the achievement of the proposed objectives in order to complete it successfully by 1985. If we look at the number of workers graduated from this level, those in the classrooms and the limited time left

before 1985, we will better understand the extraordinary and sustained effort we must make to fulfill this new commitment we have made to the party and Fidel.

The 15th CTC Congress must ask for consolidation of the following measures and the application of as many others as contribute to the objectives of this important educational battle:

Objectively analyze the existing situation in each work center in order to adopt the measures to permit incorporation in the classrooms of those who have less than a ninth grade education and focus on the fight for continuation, attendance and promotion;

Help the workers who work on rotating shifts or are in constant movement to be incorporated in the courses through methods established by MINED [Ministry of Education] and other initiatives and, at the same time, insist on attendance, without drop outs, and high levels of enrollment;

Have the union and administrative leaders maintain exemplary conduct in enrollment, attendance and promotion as a way to stimulate the rest of the workers in each labor collective in this effort to fulfill the goal of graduation from ninth grade;

Continue working so that every worker who has difficulty participating in some of the different courses established prepares himself and attends the open examinations for ninth grade. Establish review groups for the open examinations and guarantee great care so that they maintain high attendance, continuation and promotion, basically through the willingness of the teachers and professors who are members of the Salvador Garcia Aguero Brigade;

Repeat the necessary actions to guarantee that the classrooms have the indispensable technical and material conditions to develop their activity without neglecting the attention that the union movement and MINED must give to the educational personnel;

Select and train worker professors and exploit the initial methodological training that MINED gives. Also make it possible for the hired teachers to attend the training meetings and teacher collectives;

Redouble efforts so that the corresponding organisms carry out the allocation, selection and training of the educational personnel and the creation of the indispensable technical and material conditions;

Ask MINED for more technical, educational and administrative attention to the classrooms where the workers study;

Recognize and morally stimulate the work that the worker professors do and guarantee that they receive the corresponding wage or fee;

Intensify the publicity for the battle for ninth grade through a broad plan of information on the progress and effect of incorporation, enrollment, attendance, continuation and promotion;

Encourage as much as possible the Special Emulation of the Battle for Ninth Grade, guaranteeing the signature of commitments on attendance, continuation and promotion and periodic and systematic evaluations and presentation of the corresponding incentives to the union sections; and

Hold mass celebrations for the "Declaration as victorious in the battle for ninth grade" at all the levels of the union movement as this task is completed.

6.1.2 Technical and Professional Training

The solution of the complex problems in technical and professional training has meant constant work by the union movement and other factors tied to this activity. The steps taken from the 13th CTC Congress until now have helped improve the level of this important task.

According to the 1981-82 census, there are 102,412 workers who have graduated as intermediate-level technicians and 156,181 skilled workers in the country. This has been influenced by the number of graduates from sixth and ninth grades. Nevertheless, the demand for technicians imposed by our development is still greater. Therefore, it is necessary to adapt the promotion plans of that force to progressively satisfy our needs without neglecting other education.

On 17 July 1981, our revolutionary state dictated Decree-Law No. 45 on technical training for the workers. It determines the responsibilities of the organisms related to this activity.

The consistent application of this law will enable us to plan the human and material resources for this 5-year period and support the coming battle we will undertake to complete 11th grade which is tied to the intermediate-level technician.

Based on the present conditions in the technical and professional training of workers and its importance in the battle we fight to achieve greater economic efficiency, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out:

So that the state organisms stipulate, based on the territorial needs of the country, the number of skilled workers and intermediate-level technicians needed and, consequently, plan the material and human resources to insure their training;

So that the make-up of the technical training plans and their integration in the technical-economic plan of the different organisms or enterprises is guaranteed as planned;

So that the union movement demand, at the pertinent levels, the right to participate in drawing up the drafts for the training plans and their discussion with the worker collectives; and

So that there is consistent application of MINED Resolution No. 664 in all state organisms, watching for the strict fulfillment of the principle of the close tie between the battle for ninth grade and technical training.

6.1.3 Worker Schools

The 15th CTC Congress must express the determination to fully exploit the installed capacity for the functioning of the worker schools and the interest in establishing new capacity in those places where the needs of the country advise it.

6.1.4 Language Teaching

The 15th CTC Congress must recommend that the installations for language schools be expanded and consolidated and others be established in accord with the imperatives of the economic and social progress of the country and the cultural development of the workers.

6.1.5 Higher Education

The progressive incorporation of the workers to higher education, oriented toward the most urgent specialties that our socioeconomic development demands, is a reality. For that objective, special legal measures have been promulgated, certain problems related to the technical-material study base have been resolved and there has been progress in the functioning of the educational and organizational structures in general, faithful to the spirit that inspires the universalization of education. This does not deny the fact that inadequacies persist in the study plans and programs, the bibliography for the workers courses and the proper application of Decree No. 91. It has still not been fully achieved that the educational and organizational structures, both institutional as well as political, carry out their functions in these courses. We must also point out that the attention that the union movement gives to these courses is still deficient.

In consideration of the above, the 15th CTC Congress must show that it is in favor of:

Continuing to stimulate the incorporation of the workers to university studies related to those specialties needed for our socioeconomic development;

Consolidating the modality of open education which represents one of the ways that offers greatest flexibility to the workers to study certain specialties;

Having the respective organisms carry out measures that contribute to the solution of existing problems with the technical-material study base, continue encouraging tasks involved in the make-up of plans and programs adapted to the characteristics of the worker students and strengthen activities to improve the work of the teachers of these courses; and

Consolidating the proper application of Decree No. 91 and its complementary regulations, also guaranteeing attendance by the required percentage of workers at the classes to aid the rates of continuation and promotion.

6.2 Cultural Tasks

The CTC and its unions have given strong encouragement to cultural tasks, basically by developing the amateurs movement. It also favors the participation of the workers in the planned activities of the growing number of cultural installations in the areas as well as in the literary and journalistic competitions of the unions and the CTC's Ruben Martinez Villena competition. Minilibraries and libraries have been established in the work centers. The culture committees in the work centers throughout the country have played an important role in all this work.

In the stage that begins after the 15th CTC Congress, special emphasis will be placed on asking the cultural organisms and institutions of the country for the indispensable technical advice to improve the quality of our amateurs movement as well as their collaboration to provide the indispensable material base that the development of our activities requires.

Because of the above, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out to:

Stimulate the mass participation of the workers in the practice, appreciation and enjoyment of cultural activities and have all the basic production and service units in the country achieve the position of "Distinguished Culture Center";

Achieve optimal exploitation and use of the cultural institutions through local plans for visits to museums, art galleries, libraries, houses of culture, concerts, recitals and other cultural installations or activities;

Increase the number of workers participating in the basic stage of the festivals for art amateurs and achieve higher levels of technical and material organization and artistic quality in the advanced stages;

Establish a training and advancement course for monitors and activists in the union elementary schools in the municipalities, using the program elaborated for the workers;

Coordinate systematic and regular attention by the monitors and activists for organizational and technical advice to the workers' movement of art amateurs;

Strengthen and expand technical advice to the workers' movement of art amateurs through the Juan Marinello Contingent, with the special support of the Cultural Union;

Ask the houses of culture for the use of their installations and technical force for the worker amateurs in the municipalities;

Insure the continuity and development of the National Ruben Martinez Villena Literature and Journalism Competition that the CTC and the unions sponsor;

Favor the establishment and expansion of minilibraries and libraries in the production and service units where it is advisable, promoting activities that increase interest in reading in the workers;

Emphasize the need to draw up draft designs for the existing production and service units or new ones in the country in order to create a more functional and agreeable environment; and

Work for the preservation of pieces, objects, documents and anything that, due to its historic, political or social value, should be in a museum and is tied to the origins and development of the union movement. This work must be developed in coordination with the monuments and museums committees.

6.3 Sports Tasks

The results in the sports sector are expressed in the growing incorporation of workers to the Sports Games organized by the CTC as well as to the competitions planned by INDER [National Institute for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation]. There are thousands of female workers who participate in basic woman's gymnastics and labor gymnastics. Hundreds of thousands of workers and their families participate in recreational activities. The contribution to the national high-yield teams has been significant in winning hundreds of medals for the socialist fatherland as has the contribution to the 14th Central American and Caribbean Games held in Cuba. The intensive activity carried out by the sports committees in the labor centers has been outstanding in successes achieved.

These facts express, in general, the notable progress in sports activities by our workers. These must be consolidated and developed. Therefore, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out for:

Increasing the mass incorporation of workers to sports, physical training and recreation as well as increasing the number of activists and watching over their advancement;

Continuing to develop the Workers Sports Games and stimulating growing participation as well as improving their organization and quality;

Continuing the incorporation of the workers to the INDER social schedule;

Working to guarantee the implements and technical advice for the installations and an increase in allocations of implements and clothing to sell to work centers;

Systematically developing interdepartmental and intercenter sports competitions and intensifying sports microemulations at the different unions levels; and

Paying special attention to the workers who qualify for advanced competitions.

6.4 Worker Clubs

The worker clubs are an expression of the new realities of the Cuba of today. They promote the use of the free time of the workers and their families for cultural and recreational activities in general. There are now 54 worker

clubs throughout the country. The 15th CTC Congress must exhort greater efforts to increase the number of clubs, eliminate the inadequacies that still show up in their internal functioning as well as consolidate, expand and improve the activity programs in them.

6.5 Popular Camping

In 1982 and the beginning of 1983, the number of workers who participated in the popular camping programs totaled more than 147,000. These programs provide a new recreation to the union movement. The CTC and the unions must channel this initiative as much as possible and make the presence of our worker collectives at the camping bases a new contribution of the union movement toward the success of this task, an effective way to diversify recreational programs.

Therefore, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out to continue promoting the participation of the workers in the Popular Camping Program in coordination with the UJC [Union of Young Communists].

6.6 National Tourism

There is clear understanding about the difficulties that the country faces which limit the capacity and means of transportation needed to fully satisfy the requests of the workers who want to enjoy vacation plans. We must interest the appropriate organisms in adopting the necessary measures to improve the available installations and transportation so that the workers and their families who use those programs can enjoy them as much as possible. The 15th CTC Congress must support this proposal and promote other forms to facilitate the recreation of the workers.

6.7 International Tourism

Tourism abroad has been directed basically at stimulating the most distinguished workers in just recognition of their work.

By initiative of comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the party and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, there has been an increase in the number of tourist trips to socialist countries awarded to National Heroes and Vanguards and distinguished workers and their families through facilities for payment, moderate prices and free trips for a certain number of National Heroes and Vanguards. The 15th CTC Congress must speak out in support of this policy.

VII. Defense of the Socialist Fatherland

7.1 Military Training for Workers Facing Threats of Imperialist Aggression

The aggressiveness of U.S. imperialism has increased, especially since the rise to power in that country of Mr Reagan and his party. They are members and leaders of the ultrareactionary political forces, unconditional servants of the most powerful multinational consortia, particularly the industrial

military complex, fervent promoters of the arms race and sworn enemies of socialism, detente, progress and peace.

As part of the offensive unleashed by the imperialists against socialism and the national liberation movement, our country is the object of a new outbreak of the traditional hostility of U.S. governments. In recent years, along with reinforcement of their criminal economic blockade, they are increasing their campaigns of slander and intimidation and have even publicly speculated on possible measures of "punishment" they might adopt against our fatherland.

In this situation that once more exposes the arrogance of the Yankee imperialists, the union movement and all the Cuban people, solidly united around the party and Fidel, have resisted and will continue to resist without showing the slightest trace of fear or weakness, as an expression of their unshakable determination to defend the socialist fatherland at any cost.

The Cuban workers and all the people, heirs of glorious battle traditions, are fully convinced that, as Fidel said, "peace is defended with firmness,... with determination,...with the necessary courage." They repeat their unlimited support for the measures adopted by the leadership of the party and the revolutionary government to strengthen and increase the defense capacity of the country. New eloquent proof of this is the staunch combat readiness of our workers, their massive incorporation in the MTT [Territorial Troops Militia] throughout the country and their continued contributions for their financing as well as the determined and disciplined participation of the worker reservists in their courses for training and improvement in military techniques.

The call made by comrade Fidel to update the data of the Military Register, which is vitally important for the best control of our reserves, has been firmly and properly accepted and welcomed by our workers.

The forces that make up Civil Defense are being improved as an essential element for the defense system of the country.

As is known, facing those intensified threats of imperialist aggression, MINFAR [Ministry of the FAR] has adopted a set of measures to move the equipment and troops around in order to protect them. These have inevitably led to harder living conditions for our soldiers.

Corresponding to the above, the 15th CTC Congress must make a strong appeal for:

All the men and women who are members of the unselfish and combative detachment of Cuban workers in the units of the MTT or the Reserve not to spare any effort in observance of the obligations of their positions as militiamen or reservists, especially those related to their constant preparation and training in the mastery of the equipment and armaments and in fulfillment of their military duties and through greater discipline and punctuality at the study meetings, combat training rallies and other planned instructional activities;

Diversification and enrichment in each province and municipality of the activities to consolidate the self-financing of the MTT;

Constant updating of the Military Register and the documents of the MTT as well as the changes and transfers of the equipment that, in times of war, go to the FAR. Achievement of these objectives must be a task of primary importance for the unions and all their affiliates since it is one of the ways they actively participate in the defense tasks and contribute to their better organization;

The union sections and bureaus, in coordination with the corresponding political sections, to contribute through their efforts to improved living conditions and more recreation for the troops. They must hold productive workdays as well as meetings between workers and soldiers, labor centers and military units;

The unions to strengthen their decisive support to the Civil Defense tasks as another link in the defense system of the country so that each worker learns how to act under conditions of war and natural disasters and master standards of conduct to be observed in each case as well as the security measures that must be carried out to protect the machinery, installations, raw materials and finished products in the work centers;

The members of Civil Defense to be punctual at the planned combat training classes where they are trained to protect their lives and others and insure the normal operation of the work centers and, therefore, of the economy even in exceptional situations; and

Aid in the organization and realization of the mass task of patriotic-military education among the workers to stimulate love and respect for the FAR as worthy continuers of the Mambi Army and the Rebel Army.

To fulfill these objectives, the 15th CTC Congress must direct the unions to systematically publicize the context of Law No. 1255 of 1973 on General Military Service among the workers and promote strictest fulfillment of its precepts.

7.2 Preservation of Social Property

The workers are given important tasks in fulfillment of their duties in the socialist society. These include being zealous guardians of all the state assets entrusted to the labor center to carry out its functions. With those assets that belong to all the people, every worker has to be an intransigent soldier against crime, negligence, irresponsibility and administrative lack of control.

We must fight without letup against every unlawful manifestation of any type because of its disfiguring nature.

At the detection of a crime, there must be quick and direct action for an in-depth examination of its causes. Any sanction that is imposed against

the committer of the crime must be reported to all the workers so that the measure really is educational and makes an example.

Many causes of crimes which affect the economy would disappear if there was joint action by all the factors in the labor center.

Everyone knows that there are different types of actions or deeds where the hand of the enemy is present. Despite the barrier to his actions that he has run into in each labor collective, he will continue trying to destroy what has cost the people so much effort and sacrifice.

The workers and union leaders participate more directly in the preservation of the goods of the people through their mass incorporation and attendance to the worker guard.

However, in spite of the notable progress observed in these urgent tasks, it is indispensable to continue strengthening the action of the workers and their unions since, no matter how much we do to preserve our work centers from every risk of the aggression of the enemy who does not renounce his plans against the revolution, it will never be enough. Law No. 1231 is a very important instrument to achieve the proposed objectives. Therefore, it is everyone's duty to observe it strictly.

In consideration of all the above, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out for:

Having the administration include every deed that has affected the goods of the center in its reports to the production or service assemblies in order that agreements be adopted to prevent their repetition. The workers must use any means including these assemblies to denounce anyone who, through his criminal or negligent conduct, hurts the labor center; and

Continued strengthening of the worker guard, not only through the incorporation of all the workers but, mainly, through punctuality to the guards and effective care of the corresponding objectives. Proper attention to organization and supervision of the worker guards and establishment of the necessary conditions to facilitate the realization of this important activity must be demanded of the administrations.

Lastly, everything referring to state secrets has singular importance in order to limit the radius of action of the enemy using our more important data and information. In addition to observance of the established norms in Law No. 1246, we must maintain the strictest, most absolute discretion.

Every worker must always be aware that discretion is a combat weapon and never forget that the enemy greatly values certain secret data that offer him an idea of the direction we are going on a certain front, especially in the economy.

Consequently, the 15th CTC Congress must make a resolute call to support all the measures, particularly those indicated above, to help build an insurmountable barrier for our fatherland against the action of our enemies.

[25 Aug 83 p 4]

[Text] The acute class antagonism in today's world has led to an extraordinary intensification of the ideological struggle at an unprecedented level. Imperialism, intent on reversing the changes in the international balance of power which are favorable to socialism, social progress and peace, reasserts its aggressiveness and shows its warmongering nature and its hegemonic ambitions. It uses all the mechanisms in its reach to defend its reactionary ideology, in some cases directly and in other cases disguising them to try to reconquer, preserve or extend its influence.

This political and social context includes the ideological counterrevolutionary offensive that imperialism has been carrying out against our country and its revolution.

To advance its diversionary campaigns, imperialism and its agents try to use many means including the prejudices and bad habits inherited from the old society that still persist in a small social group that lacks any national roots.

Consequently, consistent and persevering ideological work to confront and defeat the imperialist maneuvers in the arena of ideas and the remnants of bourgeois society that persist is a task of primary revolutionary importance that requires the most determined participation of our workers and their union organizations.

Therefore, the 15th CTC Congress must demonstrate the need to go into the study of the scientific theory of Marxism-Leninism as a suitable instrument for the formation of a scientific materialistic awareness about natural phenomena, society and philosophy. At the same time, it must emphasize that, by promoting the ideological work at a higher plane, the CTC and the unions must watch for its indispensable practical tie to the concerns, duties and rights that shape the world of our worker collectives. It must go into the responsibility of the workers in the execution of the economic, political and social tasks to construct socialism in our country derived from their role in the confused international situation of our days.

One concrete way to achieve this objective is to point out the honor of work under socialism and to emphasize the example of the workers and collectives that are outstanding in the fulfillment of "our" social duty and in the care of the goods of the collective.

The fight to increase the economic awareness of the workers so that they acquire greater understanding that everything they do is for themselves and for society is another vitally important element in ideological work. The union movement must give it special priority due to its major significance for the advance of our economic and social development. In that sense, we must broadly publicize all the indicators of the SDPE.

The 15th CTC Congress must make a strong appeal: to redouble efforts to achieve a greater level of efficiency in the assigned production, technical, educational, cultural, administrative and service tasks; to improve and

stabilize their quality; to increase productivity; to strengthen labor discipline and improve exploitation of the workday; to consciously and steadily conserve raw materials and materials--especially those from the capitalist area--energy, fuel and electricity; and to improve care for social property.

The 15th CTC Congress must loudly proclaim that the ideological work of the CTC and the unions must be directed at reinforcing the participation of the workers in the analysis, discussion and supervision of the economic activity of their respective center, strengthening their combativeness toward waste of state resources, improvisation, laxity, irresponsibility and bureaucratism, explaining in a comprehensible way the causes for the current difficulties that our economy faces, their effect on the general development of the country and on the specific activity assigned to each collective and presenting the position to be taken by each and every member to counteract and conquer these.

In the economic education of the workers, there must be emphasis on the constant attention of the union organizations to the correct application of the socialist principle of distribution "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work" which we have been implementing in recent years. This is also true of the development of the broadest union democracy--expressed mainly in the massive participation of the workers in economic management--and the proper realization of production and service assemblies and assemblies of representatives.

The 15th CTC Congress must make a call to strengthen the ideological work against the deceptive propaganda of imperialism which tries to dazzle and corrupt the workers, extolling the alleged advantages of the consumer society. It must also wholeheartedly confront and explain to the workers the true objectives of the different revisionist currents that attempt to confuse the essence of Marxism-Leninism and deny the need for social revolution based on its postulates, thereby opening the way to expressions of sectarianism, dogmatism and anticomunism whose most common expression is anti-Sovietism.

At the same time, it is necessary that our working class and its union movement increase their educational work facing those petit-bourgeois expressions that persist. Their negative manifestations translate into selfishness, vanity, the desire for privileges, personal ambition, favoritism, self-sufficiency, immodesty, tolerance for bad work, authoritarianism, insensitivity toward the problems of the workers and contempt toward their union organizations. In opposition to these vices, the CTC and the unions must persist in strengthening the feelings of disinterest and solidarity and the will to work and sacrifice for the good of others as exalted values of the communist awareness we want all our workers to have.

The 15th CTC Congress must stress the continued strengthening of the role of the union movement in our socialist administration and demand that its leaders at the different levels increase their commitment as representatives of the workers in defense of their legitimate interests, convinced that the *raison d'etre* of our union movement and the foundation of its authority and prestige lie in these principles.

The 15th CTC Congress must make an appeal to continue making the socialist emulation dynamic, expanding it, impressing a new spirit on it and freeing it from every type of formalism.

The 15th CTC Congress must fight for the union movement to reinforce its attention to the study circles since they constitute a truly effective vehicle for the political and ideological formation of the workers. Therefore, it is indispensable to overcome the formalistic development seen in many of them, implement methods that arouse everyone's interest and participation, systematically train the leaders, watch over the language and appropriate amount of study materials, distribute them on time and in the proper form and guarantee that they are taught in the programmed stages and with the required quality.

The 15th CTC Congress must speak out so that the newspaper TRABAJADORES continues to improve itself and becomes a real instrument that contributes basically to the ideological development of the workers, emphasizing their economic education and praising the collectives and workers who were outstanding in the fulfillment of their labor and social duties.

The 15th CTC Congress must point out the significance that the opening of history rooms and places has for the workers and their proper use as a means to increase awareness.

It must also work to consolidate and expand the participation of the workers in the "1 January" and "Study Teams" competitions.

The 15th CTC Congress must point out the importance of continuing to stimulate volunteer work, emphasizing its unquestionable importance in the communist education of the workers and watching for the indispensable balance between moral incentives and material incentives.

The fight against prejudices that still exist concerning the equality of women is a responsibility of both our workers and their union organizations.

The union movement must redouble its efforts to educate the new generations in the principles of socialist coexistence. Therefore, the 15th CTC Congress must demand a close and permanent tie between our union organizations and the pioneer and youth organizations, promote an exchange between the educational centers and the production and service centers and develop moral and political support to the schools in order to instill in the children and youths not only work habits and discipline but also the indispensable class consciousness for their formation as future workers and leaders of the new society we are building.

Greater participation in the School Councils as well as the achievement of a stronger tie between the worker parents and the schools, support for the vocational formation and professional orientation plans and attention to the training of skilled workers and technicians through practical activities in the work centers contribute to these objectives.

To form in the children and youths love for work, respect for discipline and responsibility in the tasks they develop through the Pioneer Guides, the

Scientific-Technical Interest Clubs and vacation plans requires more organization that appropriately responds to the fight for the integral education and formation of the children and youths.

The 15th CTC Congress must demand that the entire union movement increase its attention to young workers so that every collective achieve, through its educational work, that the youths feel part of it, committed to its objectives and ready to join the contingent of distinguished workers. To achieve these objectives, the CTC and the UJC must work together closely to carry out the Joint Directive signed by both organizations and improve the ceremonies admitting the youths to the working class.

The 15th CTC Congress must speak out so that the CTC and the unions continue supporting the forms of cooperative production developing among small farmers under the auspices of ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] and strengthen the fraternal work relations between that organization and the union movement as an expression of the indissoluble worker-peasant alliance on which the new society we are building is based.

Lastly, the 15th CTC Congress must reiterate that our union organization, within the framework of ideological work, must emphasize the leadership function of the PCC as a vanguard detachment of the working class and leading force of our society. They must insist on publicizing the nature of our socialist democracy and the institutions that represent it. They must work to learn in greater depth the scope of socialist legality, the need and importance that we all observe and encourage it among the workers with renewed vitality, labor heroism, socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism and the historic participation of our working class in the extraordinary undertaking inspired and led by our chief and guide, comrade Fidel, in constructing the first socialist state in the Western hemisphere.

IX. Proletarian Internationalism and Solidarity

Internationalist ideas have a beautiful and fruitful tradition in the annals of the history of our people because of their revolutionary background of more than 100 years of struggle. Marti, Maceo, Gomez, Balino, Mella, Martinez Villena, Pablo de la Torriente Brau, Camilo Cienfuegos, Che Guevara and Lazaro Pena were pure internationalists.

The popular victory in January 1959 and the subsequent process of building socialism in our country under the accurate leadership of comrade Fidel opened a new stage of revolutionary awareness in the masses based on the ideology of the working class, consequently giving great significance to the principle of proletarian internationalism.

Therefore, proletarian internationalism began to be the undeniable patrimony of all the people and take root in the revolutionary awareness of our workers.

The many altruistic contingents of construction workers, teachers, doctors and technicians with the most diverse specialties and, particularly, the heroic missions carried out by our soldiers in Angola, Ethiopia and other

countries during these years provide outstanding testimony of the depth of internationalist principles in the revolutionary awareness of our workers and all the people.

The repeated expressions of solidarity and aid that the nations of the socialist community, headed by the beloved and fraternal Soviet Union, offer us have also helped deepen that internationalist spirit. The Soviet Union offers us firm, sustained, disinterested and exemplary collaboration facing the constant threats and aggressions of every type against our country by imperialism. It supports us in our economic and social development. Other revolutionary, democratic and progressive forces in different parts of the world have also offered us their firm support.

Since the triumph of the revolution, our workers have demonstrated the development and increase of their internationalist awareness in an exemplary way as an expression of their political and ideological education and their class awareness. The results show the importance of continuing to encourage sustained ideological work in that direction.

Its value increases, especially considering the difficult and complex conditions of the world today, aggravated by the capitalist economic crisis and the frantic arms race to which the most aggressive circles of U.S. imperialism are pledged with its subsequent risk for world peace.

Based on the above, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out strongly so that the CTC and the unions:

Continue strengthening the political and ideological work to encourage and strengthen the internationalist spirit and the feelings of solidarity among our workers as basic and inseparable elements of their Marxist-Leninist formation. The union organizations must give particular attention to the development of the young workers;

Continue offering all the necessary attention to the families of the workers who are on internationalist missions;

Strengthen the work for social recognition for the worker collectives and their base organizations and those workers who as soldiers, laborers, technicians or professionals have contributed courageously to the liberation of other fraternal peoples, to the defense of their sovereignty and territorial integrity and to their just desires to create better living conditions for their children, thereby giving prestige to our working class, our working people and their revolution. The unions must also promote recognition for those workers with an exemplary attitude toward work who replace their internationalist comrades at work and guarantee the normal development of production, service or anything else assigned to them;

Develop indissoluble ties of proletarian and communist brotherhood with the workers and union organizations of socialist countries to insure the full realization of the objectives that our respective union activities inspire;

Continue demonstrating their firm and unyielding solidarity with the demands of the workers in the developed capitalist countries and particularly the underdeveloped countries in defense of their economic and social conquests and for better living and working conditions which are acutely affected by the capitalist economic crisis. There must be solidarity against the repression by employers supported by the repressive corps and in favor of respect for their true rights to build a just society, free of every form of exploitation and discrimination and based on true democracy;

Reiterate their firm and unyielding support for the revolutionary contingents that, in different parts of the world, take up arms to achieve the national liberation of their peoples;

Consolidate and increase the planning of their foreign policy to favor unity of action by the union forces in the international field around concrete objectives that equally interest all workers independent of their ideological, philosophical or political positions;

Emphasize the objective of expanding the scope of unity of the union movement in Latin America and the Caribbean as a means of raising the fight of the workers on the continent to a higher plane in the serious and difficult situation they face which is characterized by the new outbreak of exploitation by monopolies, ignorance of their most basic labor and social rights, growing unemployment, the dissolution of their union organizations and the imprisonment, exile and assassination of their most prestigious leaders;

Focus their activity in Latin America and the Caribbean on the determination to reinforce the role and authority of CPUSTAL [Permanent Congress for Latin American Workers Trade Union Unity] as a real class and revolutionary union organization;

Support with renewed energy the fights to preserve world peace, stop the arms race and consolidate and extend the principles of peaceful coexistence, convinced that the most important international task today is the fight for peace;

Work hard to help fully materialize the agreements of the 10th World Trade Union Congress held in our country in February 1982 and contribute decisively so that the WFTU attain new and greater achievements in the realization of the supreme objectives that inspired its foundation; and

Continue asking for the strong solidarity of the workers and their union organizations throughout the world toward our fatherland and its revolution facing the repeated threats and aggressions of Yankee imperialism.

X. Strengthening Democratic Methods in the Union Movement

As the 14th CTC Congress indicated, "union democracy is not only the irreplaceable requirement that those led freely elect their leaders but it is something more profound related to the internal work methods that must prevail in the heart of the union movement. Collective discussion and execution of tasks and the predominance of a critical and self-critical spirit are con-substantial to the exercise of the democratic life of the union organisms."

Union democracy makes it possible to consult the workers and give them full participation in the collective decisions. It favors their incorporation in the process of elaboration and systematic control of the tasks and promotes their active and enthusiastic support for the fulfillment of the plans and activities agreed upon by the union. Union democracy stimulates the free exercise of criticism and self-criticism without which our organization would stagnate. It is the method that helps the workers speak openly without any restriction. It facilitates obtaining their opinions and suggestions and makes it possible to express frankly and in a revolutionary way the pertinent explanations to counteract false concepts and harmful habits.

Union guidelines and decisions that are not based on democratic procedures are incomplete and inadequate. When those guidelines and decisions are discussed and approved by the workers, the workers think of them as their own and feel responsible for their execution.

The union leaders must always use persuasion as the basic method in their relations with the workers. In this way, they contribute to their education, increase their awareness of the need to fulfill their labor duties, support and develop feelings of solidarity and the full understanding that everything we do is for the benefit of all.

The 15th CTC Congress must speak out energetically to strengthen the organic life, improve the cadre policy and give adequate attention to the base union organizations.

The 15th CTC Congress must emphasize the need for the continued firm application of the principles and norms related to union democracy and their strict observance by all the union leaders. This is an indispensable requirement to strengthen the participation of the workers in the execution of the union tasks. This is an indispensable requirement so that the workers feel more and more that the union is theirs.

10.1 Union Assemblies

Union assemblies constitute an important form of expression of socialist democracy in our labor collectives. They have made progress in improving their content, organization and development as well as in the implementation of supervision and information on their agreements. It has been established that they will be held every 6 months based on the experience obtained during these years.

Those assemblies constitute an instrument of primary importance for strengthening the organic life of the leadership in the union section and in the interest of promoting the participation of the workers in the union tasks.

The general assembly of all the affiliated workers is the superior organ of union leadership at the base. The executive secretariat of the union section is subordinate to it. It is free and sovereign to adopt as many decisions as it feels necessary as long as they do not violate the statutes of the CTC, the union regulation and the agreements of the superior organs and organisms.

The general assembly of all the affiliated workers is the appropriate framework for the workers to ask for an accounting from the leadership of the union section. The leadership must give precise answers on the results of its administration during a certain stage. Also at that assembly, the union leaders must refer to the behavior of the members in the fight to fulfill the tasks. Creative criticism and self-criticism, expressed with the mutual respect that all the participants must observe, must be present in its debates with the honesty and firmness that characterize the working class.

Despite its vital importance, the union assembly does not eliminate the urgent need that the leaders of the union section remain in constant contact with the workers, fighting constantly to instill in them the need to fulfill their duties and to make respect for their rights prevail.

The 15th CTC Congress must stress the importance of the union assemblies and the firm determination to continue working to improve their organization and development.

10.2 Meetings of Executive Secretariats of Base Organizations

To achieve the successful fulfillment of the union tasks, all the members of their leadership must function efficiently and consistently apply the principle of democratic centralism.

We cannot consider holding all the meetings planned a goal but a suitable way to promote collective work, discussion of the tasks, their distribution and the way to execute them as well as supervision, analysis and evaluation of their results. It also contributes to encourage cadre training and for all the leaders to function. It helps each one of them to group around him many union activists with concrete work objectives. The regular meeting of our base organisms helps generate among their leaders a spirit of battle, eagerness and pride to achieve that their union section be the best in the union.

The base organizations of the union movement are our most important links. They represent the direct, daily and principal means for the realization of tasks among the workers. That is why it is singularly important that the 15th CTC Congress speak out for their continued correct functioning and, consequently, for strict fulfillment of their planned meetings.

10.3 Work Context

In reference to the work context of the union movement, there has been some deviation. Tasks have been added that are important from the general point of view but are not really pertinent to the unions. This tends to deflect them from their main objectives. It is not a matter of avoiding any function that really corresponds to them but a matter of not getting into areas that do not pertain to them, most of the time to the detriment of the concrete work results that they are obliged to contribute to society.

For that reason, the 15th CTC Congress must speak out for an examination of the tasks of the union movement in order to continue those that are substantial to it and must, therefore, be included in its work content and eliminate those that are not within its scope or that deflect it from its basic tasks.

COMMERCIAL BANK ASSETS RISE 14 PERCENT IN 6 MONTHS

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 8 Sep 83 p 12A

[Text] During the first half of the year, the commercial banks' total assets increased from 2.685 billion to 3.54 billion, representing an absolute increment of 368 million pesos (14 percent).

The loan portfolio represents the largest portion of the combined assets, having increased during the same period from 1.42 billion to 1.61 billion; in other words, a total of 190 million pesos more, or 13 percent.

These data were provided yesterday in a lecture by economist Frederich Berges at the Center for Monetary Studies, focusing on the need for business owners to maintain good relations with a banker, and not only with a lawyer and an accountant.

Berges, a bright economist, gave the following analysis:

"The other area of significant growth in the commercial banks' assets is the one relating to deposits in the Central Bank to cover letters of credit. The latter rose from 149 million to nearly 292 million, showing a variation of 142 million, equivalent to a 95 percent increase.

"On the debit side, the funds accrued by the commercial banks in the form of deposits rose during the period analyzed to 1.407 billion, exceeding by 148 million the total balance for the same period in 1982, which was 1.259 billion. This 12 percent increment was distributed on the basis of 63 percent in the national banks and the remaining 37 percent in the foreign banks.

"The area of demand liabilities also shows growth, because during the first half of 1983 it totaled about 842 million, in comparison with 478 million by that date in 1982. This 76 percent increase represented the sum of 364 million.

"Finally, the so-called capital funds, in other words, the paid capital, surplus and capital reserve, rose by nearly 18 million, increasing from 214 million to 232 million during the 1983 period."

The commercial banks' analysis includes the state-owned Reserve Bank. Neither the Industrial Development Corporation nor the Agricultural Bank, both of which are state-owned, is included in the analysis of the Development Banks. Similarly, in the analysis of the mortgage banks, only those with private capital are included.

Development Banks

During the first 6 months of 1983, the total assets of the combined Development Banks operating on the national level amounted to 231.8 million Dominican pesos, exceeding by 29.3 million the amount shown by them during the same period in 1982, which was 202.5 million Dominican pesos. This variation reflected an increment of 14 percent.

In the total assets, the loan portfolio increased by 15 percent during the period analyzed, when it rose from the 166.7 million Dominican pesos shown in 1982 to 191.2 million in 1983; an indicator reflecting the contribution that has been made by these financial intermediaries to our country's economic development process.

On the liabilities side, the outstanding securities, which constitute one of the main sources used by the Development Banks to attract funds from the public, underwent a rate of increase of 44 percent; because from the 26.1 million Dominican pesos that they showed in 1982, they rose to 37.6 million in 1983. Nevertheless, this item accounts for only 20 percent of the total liabilities of these financial intermediaries, while the liabilities with the Central Bank accounted for over 65 percent at the end of June 1983. The explanation for this lies in the limitations of the development financiers to attract direct funds from the public, which forces them to seek supplementary funds in the Central Bank in order to be able to meet the demand for credit from their customers. The liabilities contracted with the Central Bank for these items underwent an increase of 10 percent during the period under discussion, which was less than the increment in previous years. This is a reflection of the measures adopted by the Central Bank aimed at curbing the money supply, and the efforts expended to procure the funds that it needs from another source, such as the sale of securities or bonds.

During the first half of 1983, the total amount of these funds was 43.5 million Dominican pesos, whereas at the same date in 1982 it reached 39.8 million, representing a 9 percent increase.

Mortgage Banks

During the first half of this year, the mortgage banks' total assets increased by 24 percent over the same period of the previous year, rising from 277 million to 344 million. Of this total increment of 67 million, the loan portfolio accounted for 57 million, because the increase posted was from 238 to 295 million, equivalent to 24 percent; similar to the percentage of the total assets cited.

Breaking down the composition of the liabilities, the funds collected represented by mortgage bonds and time deposits increased by 27 percent; because from the 201 million posted by them for the first half of 1982, they rose to 256 million in 1983. It should be noted that, within this group, the circulating mortgage bonds increased by 58 million, whereas the balances of time deposits decreased by 1 million.

As for the total capital items, that is, paid capital, capital reserves and accumulated capital, they showed an increase of about 19 percent. The value of these accounts rose from 54 million in 1982 to 64 million for the same period this year.

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POLITICIZATION OF ELECTORAL BOARD STIRS CONTROVERSY

Democratic Principles, Party Politics

Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL DE AHORA in Spanish 9 Sep 83 p 38

[Editorial: "The Political Parties and Institutionality"]

[Text] Until the political parties stop viewing the government as spoils for jobs and advantages, Dominican institutionality will be vacillating and more illusory than real, and its roots will be shallow.

The speeches of the political chiefs and leaders, and those of the political candidates, are often replete with a rhetoric that is not in keeping with their real intentions and aspirations.

One need not cite any numerical or statistical information, nor mention any evidence, to be aware that, in general, those militating in the political parties are not instilled with a consciousness of service to the nation. They are seeking to fulfill personal ambitions, associated with their own individual welfare.

This is why the militancy and service record in an election campaign on behalf of a specific candidate have become the certificates giving the best accreditation for public office.

When the members of a winning party demand posts in public administration, they do not boast of their knowledge, their academic and technical training or their experience or skill in a particular field. They display their status as party members.

Institutionality does not emerge as the winner with this.

Part of the institutionality for which we have been striving is to make the judicial branch independent, for example, and to select as its servants more capable and more experienced legal professionals, with the best moral qualities. Nevertheless, when the members of the judiciary have to be selected, a scramble occurs in the legislative body upon which that selection is incumbent.

Candidates are suggested from whom a favor is wanted, or taking into account the political relationship that they have with the legislators who submit their names. For this reason, the selection of judges has always been decided on the basis of the political color associated with those who have proposed them.

Hence, they are held under suspicion of association with a party campaign; and that tends to vitiate their office.

Currently there is a discussion of the selection of members of the Central Electoral Board, a vital institution for consolidating the democratic procedures. The idea persists that this agency should be staffed by people associated with a particular political interest, that of the ones authorized to negotiate their selection.

It has been said that the Reformist Party wants one of its leaders selected as a member of the Central Electoral Board. Since there has been talk of this in the context of what is considered negotiations among the parties which comprise the Senate, it would have to be inferred that, with that signal, the Dominican Revolutionary Party is being told that there will be no objection to having one of its leaders as a member of that agency as well.

It is our conviction that this would vitiate an institution which all the parties should pledge to keep dissociated from partisan commitments, in view of the fact that its function (to guarantee the holding of honest elections free from any suspicion) can be guaranteed only if its heads are recognized as being impartial.

If the Dominican Revolutionary Party and the Reformist Party truly feel held responsible for the country's institutionalization, they must forget about taking their supporters to the Central Electoral Board, so as not to vitiate in advance a process that is so fundamental to the maintenance of democracy.

(Taken from the morning newspaper HOY, Friday, 9 September 1983.)

Balaguer, Reformist Party Position

Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL DE AHORA in Spanish 8 Sep 83 pp 9, 10

[Article by Raschid Zaiter: "Balaguer and the Electoral Board"]

[Text] Now that it is in the opposition, the Reformist Party is coming to have a decisive influence, which it never gave to its rivals in PRD [Dominican Revolutionary Party] when it was holding power for over a decade.

While the congressional leader, Jacobo Majluta, is leaving his lofty position to pay a visit to the Reformist political leader and to discuss with him matters pertaining to the Central Electoral Board, one of President Jorge Blanco's best known servants, Mr Hatuey de Camps, is also visiting him at a time when the government's reputation is at stake with the scandalous affair of the "checks to bearer." And although there has been no information concerning the subjects discussed at the meeting, it has been established that, after that visit, there will be greater rapprochement between the government authorities and former President Joaquin Balaguer.

At the first meeting at which the two potential presidential candidates for 1986, both with sufficient stature to affect the country's future, got together, Mr Balaguer gained in his favor the apparent assurance that one of his collaborators would be occupying a vacant judgeship in the highest electoral court.

At the second meeting, with Mr De Camps, perhaps the top-ranking Reformist leader, he may not have accrued such positive results; because the visitor was only a spokesman for his chief, President Jorge Blanco, and, understandably, in that secondary position he could not make state commitments.

Hence the major significance to Dr Balaguer of the visit by former President Majluta, although this does not mean that the second visit, that of Mr De Camps, was completely lacking in importance.

It has been leaked to the public that one of the names being bandied about by the Reformist leader for the post of judge on the Central Electoral Board was that of Mr Jose A. Quezada, who was, in his government, among other things, director of the Dominican Corporation of State Enterprises, and a high-ranking official at the National Palace.

The Reformist Party will continue to have the effect of a democratic balance in the same degree to which it manages to renew its cadres or to reuse those with the most proven ability, integrity and social sensitivity; although they may have to possess an extra quality, such as unconditional loyalty to the old, demanding leader of the organization.

A man who might well generate sympathy in all sectors is "Don Marallo," the affectionate nickname by which Dr Fernando Amiama Tio is known. He is closely linked to the history of this country, and a person of proven ability and reliability.

Dr Balaguer, who may now be possibly playing his last political card, must be extremely careful about placing public responsibility upon the shoulders of any of his followers; by showing an even more significant selective judgment than he has been accustomed to while in power.

To make a decision of that kind, he must have first meditated deeply on how much of a public image he will be given by the step to be taken, and whether that image would be aimed in a positive or a disfiguring direction.

If he chooses to retain his role as an enlightened dictator, Dr Quezada is a good candidate for judge of the Electoral Court, but if, on the contrary, he wishes to change that image, appearing and attempting to project himself as the serene statesman, capable of refining the former popular concept of his image, and fit to put into practice "the dreams of his youth," as he proclaimed on one occasion, then Fernando Amiama Tio, somewhat of a national hero and possessing many civic virtues, is the best of the names being discussed.

The opportunity that has been offered to Dr Balaguer by Majluta's democratic criterion should not be scrapped, as his own opponents have undertaken to disclose, inasmuch as he is a definitive factor for balance in the democratic development.

Without meaning thereby that Dr Jose A. Quezada is not qualified, we do wish to make it clear that, in our judgment (and that of many others), Dr Amiama Tio is unobjectionable, and better suited to the role that the Reformist Party is called upon to assume in these historic times.

His presence on the Central Electoral Board would produce a more balanced situation, and would give the impression that we are on the path to institutionalization and strengthening all the agencies; even those which, owing to their status as collegiate entities, such as the Central Electoral Board, offer more difficult features.

Situations such as this are the kind desired by these people, who have constantly shown their firm determination to overcome anything representing arrogance, insolence or underestimation of their own status as a thinking conglomerate, capable of rejecting with their main weapon, namely suffrage, anything that would represent a distortion of their established concepts of the future.

The Balaguer of history, whom no one has rejected, not even those of us who reject Balaguer the politician, must be careful about this first concept of him as a person, and now as never before, he is offered the opportunity to reconfirm it.

The days ahead will indicate which of the Balaguers Dr Balaguer himself is turning the balance scale of history toward.

Pena Gomez Attacks Balaguer

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 9 Sep 83 pp 1, 5A

[Article by Luis Tejeda: "Pena Accuses Balaguer Regarding JCE Crisis"]

[Text] Yesterday, the secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, accused former President Joaquin Balaguer of "engaging in a persistent effort to confuse and disorient concerning the crisis in the Central Electoral Board (JCE)."

The PRD leader and representative of the capital said that Dr Balaguer is attempting, by his statements, to bring about the appointment of Dr Jose Quezada as head of the JCE.

Pena Gomez expressed opposition to the naming of political leaders to the electoral agency, and also rejected the official party's effort to dominate the JCE with the alleged intention of carrying out a fraud in the coming elections.

"The PRD members have always been marred by ignorance of electoral matters; we have been very lax in the study of electoral problems, because you know that what the PRD members like is internal strife," stated the politician, claiming that there is no group in his party capable of perpetrating a fraud.

He said that the Reformist Party leadership "is now working hard on the coming elections," and that the PRD electoral department, on the other hand, "has not yet met for the first time."

The PRD secretary general gave his statements to the press while taking part in the farewell ceremony for the prime minister of Jamaica, Edward Seaga, at the Las Americas International Airport.

He noted: "Most of the country's electoral boards are dominated, not controlled but dominated by the Reformist Party, which has the chairmen and the secretaries of the boards": adding: "All the employees of the Central Electoral Board are also reformists."

Pena Gomez accused the former president and Reformist Party leader of "engaging in an extremely clever campaign and a persistent, intelligent, electoral effort."

Then he added: "Dr Balaguer is soothing the public, so that it will end up accepting Dr Jose Quezada as a member of the JCE"" giving a reminder that he has been one of the main leaders of the Reformist Party.

He explained that Dr Quezada deserves consideration and respect, "but he is one of the most influential politicians in the Reformist Party, one of its key men."

The PRD secretary general remarked: "We, or I, categorically state that we are radically opposed to having active politicians, and especially influential politicians and political leaders, brought in to head the JCE."

He commented: "If that happens, gentlemen, we are creating the conditions for destabilizing this country's institutional existence and for spawning a crisis with unpredictable consequences."

He expressed approval for having appointed to the top-ranking electoral agency "national personages who are not even associated with political parties."

And although he expressed the view that it is a difficult task to find a prominent personage without a political cause for the aforementioned position, Pena Gomez reiterated that he would propose to his party's agencies the idea that the JCE members should not be active politicians.

The political leader and representative of the capital claimed to oppose the appointment of Dr Quezada to the electoral court "because it would mean putting the leadership of the parties there, to be led," and he remarked that, if this were the case, "we would have to assign the PRD leaders." He was of the opinion that this would destroy the impartiality that should exist in that agency.

He declared that the electoral agencies of the party in the government have not met "a single time" since the last elections to devise any kind of plan; and hence he holds the view that Dr Balaguer "is engaged in a persistent effort to confuse."

He said that "a stop must be put" to the differences that have arisen since the resignations of two of the JCE's chief executives.

Pena Gomez noted that PRD has the majority in the Senate, and yet "it has not taken advantage of this, as Dr Balaguer took advantage when he was president of the republic, naming the members of the JCE by pointing them out."

He remarked that, during the 12-year Reformist term, "I was never called upon, nor was any other leader of the party, to be consulted"; and claimed that the Reformist leader "now wants us to accept active political leaders from his party."

The PRD secretary general voiced the opinion that his party's government has acted "with great courtesy" toward the former president, but added: "We shall not allow ourselves to be led by Dr Balaguer, because he is a political adversary."

2909
CSO: 3248/2

FENASTRAS ISSUES COMPREHENSIVE CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 16 Sep 83 pp 14, 15

[Paid announcement]

[Text] FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] reports:

To the Salvadoran people, to trade union organizations, to all democratic people and governments.

I. The Holding of Its Third Federal Council Meeting of 1983

- 1) That on 27 August it held its "Third Labor Council "FENASTRAS in Prison Meeting" in homage to the comrades who in August have completed 3 years of unfair imprisonment and from there continue to be a living denunciation of the disrespect for human rights, of the lack of the propagandized rule of law, and of the absolute inaction of the judicial branch.
- 2) That at the meeting numerous delegations of our trade unions discussed the national situation and we have concluded:

On the Economy

- A) That government policy is not aimed at generating jobs, seeking instead to maintain the earnings of privileged sectors.
- B) That health, education, the family, employment and the entire social structure have deteriorated to the extreme of having declined to 1970 levels. The cause of all this is the war which requires national revenue, along with public indebtedness and whatever comes from Washington.
- C) That small business does not receive financing owing to its inability to pay, but it is the only economic sector that generates employment, substantial assets and a surplus that permits defraying the use of capital without affecting the economy in general.
- D) That wages are miserable and in no way provide for minimum needs or for the constantly rising cost of living, which is alarming. Meanwhile, market prices rise uncontrollably, causing the workers to turn to begging. This

situation stifles our consumption capability and deteriorates public health and family welfare, worsening the suffering of the working class.

Therefore

--The constant rise of the cost of living must be stopped.

--It is necessary to create jobs and to this end small and medium business, not the big capitalists, should receive financing.

--Rent for houses, apartments and rooms should be lowered immediately.

--Charges for services should be lowered.

--The IRS [Institute for Supply Regulation] should be put in operation for the first time efficiently and honestly.

--Health and education services should be provided.

--Other indispensable measures [should be taken] to overcome the crisis.

On Politics

A) A political solution to the war is not sought through negotiation and the people are haughtily ignored.

B) Labor rights of organization, freedom of speech and mobilization are violated.

C) In addition to complicating the constitution, the Constituent Assembly ignores organized labor forces and stipulates working conditions according to 1950 rules, which is absurd. We say this because the assembly has changed nothing, except in a negative way, with whatever it has approved based on the previous constitution, which dates from that time.

D) The Apaneca Pact produced the 17 months of government which only has maintained the previous repressive pace: state of siege, imprisonment of politicians and trade unionists, a militarized university, a banking agrarian reform, stagnant foreign trade, unpopular, repressive and threatening decrees in force, and systematic refusal to improve the political status of our social forces.

E) Violence continues to be a daily occurrence in our country and the government is unable to do anything to prevent it. Meanwhile, large numbers of physically disabled and handicapped are taken out of the war, young people who from now on will become a burden on the working class. It is sad that disabled youths walk the streets, begging because of the war.

Therefore

--We suggest that a solution to the conflict be sought through dialogue and that peace be maintained through negotiation and not war.

--The constitution being drafted by the current Constituent Assembly is not going to work for two reasons: One: They are going to complicate everything with that substitute legislation because they do not know what they are doing, and when put into force (if it is so put) it is going to generate more conflicts instead of resolving them.

Two: The assembly lacks the power to impose it.

--We demand respect for labor organizations. We cannot even have places where we can work. Persecution must end immediately.

--There must be an end to violence, whose monstrous expression, the war, is leaving memories we will carry for many years.

--Seventeen months of ineffective government are enough. The government should do something:

--It should lower prices and raise wages. It cannot do it?

--It should repeal the repressive legislation. Is it not allowed to do so?

--It should respect human rights. Does it not want to?

--It should release political and trade union prisoners.

--It should open the university campus. Is there no way?

--Let it make peace. Is it afraid to do so?

On Social Problems

A) We have more than half a million displaced persons in San Salvador and cities of this country. They cannot be given beans and corn forever because that is impossible and because it does not respect their dignity. They are hungry and grab the charity, but their pride, an irreversible Indian characteristic, is offended forever. Meanwhile, begging increases.

B) The children have been neglected. They climb buses and sing to beg. These days, the children, the elderly and women have been greatly neglected and suffer more than their normal share.

C) The working family is in poverty and the people suffer from hunger, lack of clothing, disease, violence. There is no medicine. There is no money to spend. There are no more books in El Salvador. Bookstores do not sell their old stock because of the prohibitive prices and the crisis. Each day we become less educated and have scant possibilities to educate ourselves.

D) Thirty-five private universities have appeared. That is crisis and not a renaissance of our culture. Unconditional traders, stockholders and loyal administrators now are rectors of the universities. This is an insult to the guiding function of culture and to university education.

E) Manpower is exported. The amnesty law helped comrades threatened with violence and needy people to "avail themselves" of the amnesty, being classified as subversive and exiled to Canada, Mexico and Australia. In the end, the amnesty decree had to be suspended because a large number of jobless workers left the country by "taking asylum" according to the amnesty law.

Therefore

--Displaced persons should be relocated in their natural zones but without persecution, without violence, without war. This requires making peace.

--Children must be rescued. Child care centers, children's security, free and guaranteed education, and school lunches must be provided. It is necessary to end the war for this. Education must be provided without negotiating with it.

--There must be legislation in favor of women and the elderly. Homes for elderly women, jobs for women and gerontological medical care must be provided.

--Jobs have to be created. Work is the only source of income of our families and it has to be guaranteed. Sufficient wages and social benefits must be made a reality.

In conclusion the third federal council meeting resolves:

- 1) To participate with the entire Salvadoran labor movement to hold a labor forum concerning the existing material conditions of Salvadoran workers, the crisis, the war and peace.
- 2) To create a Coordinating Federal Commission to attend to labor conflicts that are emerging in businesses and to support other struggling comrades.
- 3) To finance a publications fund with special dues to defray expenses of communiques.
- 4) To conduct among the rank-and-file and people a campaign for dialogue and negotiation to achieve peace.
- 5) To show the working people that elections are not the solution to the economic crisis and to the burden imposed on the people by the crisis. That elections are a false and demagogic means of distracting the people from their problems. That propagandists of lies and old and corrupt petty politicians are the only winners in elections.

The problem of the people is lack of jobs, the extreme hunger that has taken hold of their lives and the permanent violence against us all. Elections will never resolve these problems.

II. The Conflicts

At Circa S.A. de C.V., the workers are struggling for a pay raise. The union has set forth the economic conflict or conflict of interests with the Labor

Ministry but the company uses the same excuses: decree 544 has to be respected, we are bankrupt, the economic situation is a crisis, and so forth. In 4 months it never has tried anything with the exception of trying to eliminate the union. But the union renewed the struggle in September, calling on management to negotiate, then going on strike in the face of the indifference of management and of the authorities. Thus, the Labor Ministry summoned management which ignored it, increased repression and violence in the company against the workers and sent a lawyer to the ministry who knows nothing and does not have "sufficient power."

At Sacos Cuscatlan, we have taken the company to the banks for compulsory arbitration, which is a novelty since arbitration is a management maneuver. But now two of the three arbiters ruling on the conflict are of known honesty. In this case, management is the one that ignores the "arbiters' finding." Let us see what this "popular government" does against the bankers who are supposed to be working for the people.

At Multipesca y Empesa, the dismissal of workers continues, and the union is struggling for reactivation of production, payment of wages to workers and social benefits. However, management and the banks continue to express regret that they cannot finance what the workers demand. The workers, for their part, continue to struggle for their rights.

At Atarraya S.A. located in Puerto El Triunfo, Usulután Department, management is making selective dismissals of workers having up to 15 years of service in that company and are not given any severance pay. The union has struggled legally. It has obtained favorable court rulings requiring that the company give severance pay of up to 40,000 colones. Having been defeated by their own law, the company's representatives have resorted to intimidation of the workers.

At Anda, collective bargaining is under negotiation but management has started out by refusing everything. Workers have not stopped working, but if driven to the extreme [of striking] the only ones responsible will be the company's executives. The people must support Anda's workers for we are all in the same fight.

At Eyesa, Laindeca, Santa Mercedes, La Salud and Empesa Aceite y Grasas in San Salvador and in the interior of the country, the workers are repressed by starvation wages and by the violence on the part of management and of the government.

Regarding the comrades of the Urban Housing Institute Workers Union (SETIVU) who are currently on strike, the federal council heard and discussed their case and it was decided to support their struggle.

FENASTRAS Is an Active Member of MUSYGES [expansion unknown]

FENASTRAS greets the MUSYGES comrades, reiterating to them the commitment to struggle for a society where the worker is foremost and is respected and protected for being the architect of mankind. Our MUSYGES is on its way,

[but] we have not given up the bourgeois vices that we obviously learned from union work. As good workers, we must remain alert to any mobilization and willing to struggle for the rights of workers from our legal trenches, which we have as a juridical entity.

The 28 August MUSYCES assembly showed our mobilization capability. We are going ahead with holding the great labor forum. Let us join with all workers' organizations that seek a better future for the people.

We call on you to:

Built that historic unity of the working class.

We workers who are united...will succeed united!!!

For a united and militant organized labor movement!!!

Unity, solidarity and struggle.

Long live the working classes!!!

Long live the Third FENASTRAS Labor Council Meeting in Prison!!!

Long live the martyrs of the working class!!!

San Salvador, September 1983.

9925
CSO: 3248/11

UPD SEES CORRELATION IN VIOLENCE, CONSTITUTION PROJECT

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 15 Sep 83 p 16

[Text] The Democratic Popular Unity [UPD] yesterday expressed concern over the intensification of violence in this country and the way in which approval of the political constitution is taking place.

Leaders of the ACOPAI [Association of Cooperatives of Integrated Agricultural-Livestock Products], UCS [Salvadoran Communal Union], FESINCONSTRANS [Trade Unions Federation of Construction, Transportation and Related Industries], CTS [Central Organization of Salvadoran Workers] and of other UPD-affiliated organizations said the UPD believes that the rise in acts of violence by the extreme Right and Left is not unrelated to the discussion of the draft constitution "or to the actions we have been taking to have a fair and democratic constitution that will be an instrument of social harmony and participation instead of further intensifying the hatred and resentment that dis-unites us."

According to the UPD, the rising violence is taking place as discussion of the economic system in the constitution approaches, a discussion that should determine "among other things, whether agrarian reform will continue," says the UPD.

The leaders asserted that attacks such as the one perpetrated against ACOPAI President Jorge Alberto Martinez Camacho are intended to frighten leaders so that they will cease actions in support of rural and city workers.

It was reported that demonstrations were held recently in front of the legislative palace in support of social demands and that the peasants' struggle has become evident, although the goal has not been achieved.

The UPD admitted that a minority of deputies has supported workers' demands and it seems that the others have not learned from the past, and "for them, the wave of violence in El Salvador and the possibility of having a better future for all Salvadorans" do not have the slightest importance.

Lastly, they said they will maintain their principles and struggle to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and to strengthen democratic sectors. They appealed to political parties to weigh what is happening in this country and their historic responsibility in the Constituent Assembly.

9925
CSO: 3248/11

ANPE JOB COUNSELING CREATED TO HELP UNEMPLOYED

Pointe-à-Pitre FRANCE ANTILLES in French 30 Aug 83 p 3

[Text] One of the main duties of the National Employment Agency is to find work for the unemployed, matching their ability and training to the job. To reach this goal, it must also disseminate the necessary information. It therefore acts as a sort of relay standing between the employers and the job seekers. The local Basse Terre agency recently set up a guidance counselor in office to carry out this service. What is required of him? What are his specific duties in an area where employment is particularly threatened?

The basic function of the guidance counselor is to help direct those who are unemployed, or those who want to improve their position, toward the type of work that will ease their entry into the job market. The guidance counselor can also help shape training activities.

There is much demand for his services.

There are currently approximately 18,000 people out of work in Guadeloupe, with the Basse Region having at least 5,000. In that region, the administrative sector and its ensuing professions absorbs a large portion of the available work force whereas farming is rather neglected although it seems that the whole area has, first of all, an agricultural employment situation.

One of the main uses of guidance counseling could be to steer job seekers toward those jobs by making them more attractive. There are many obstacles, however, some of them psychological. Many people are attracted by office work which has a considerably decreasing number of jobs to offer. There is neither prospects for promotion nor any channels for long-term training in the agricultural sector. Furthermore, working conditions are horrendous. So many reasons that make young people wary of seeking this type of work.

The guidance counselor therefore gives priority to the job seekers who are not sure what type of work they want to do and to those who would like to, or want to, change jobs. During the course of the interview or during a series of discussions, the counselor clearly states the importance of determining job preferences and he helps the applicant make a personal and professional assessment. In that context, Frantz Mondor who is in charge of the Basse Terre office stresses that many of the

people who come to the agency are not aware of their true professional worth and generally fail to recognize their ability. The meeting with the counselor therefore allows them to define and choose a "professional project" which is different for each individual and which takes into account the strength of each. In short, the role of the counselor is to propose various choices and training, helped by his thorough knowledge of the training system, the expectations of the users of the ANPE [National Employment Agency] offices and the existing job prospects.

The work of the guidance counselor recently established in Basse Terre is compatible with the employment data and prospects for the region and even the island.

There are prospects of jobs in the region in the agricultural, artisanal, commercial and administrative sectors, with very little prospects in the industrial sector. The Basse Terre office consequently decided to invest these sectors in a much more systematic manner in order better to define the problems of the enterprises. The office wants to do its utmost for the hiring of young people.

Victor Fabert, the new guidance counselor recently set up in office, is now waiting for job seekers that he may help them make their choice. Despite his level of competency, however, Fabert will not be able to resolve all the problems single-handedly.

6857
CSO: 3219/48

SISNIEGA ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF HIS NEW PARTY

Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 18 Sep 83 pp 5.53

Interview with Sisniega Otero; date and place not specified

Text Guatemala, 17 Sep--"The only thing I have done is to speak for all the people of Guatemala, who were being muzzled by a state of exclusion more against free men than against subversion," said former MLN National Liberation Movement vicepresidential candidate, Lionel Sisniega Otero, in a statement to EL GRAFICO today.

Sisniega Otero added categorically: "The claim put forward by Dr Hector Aragón Quiñónez is ridiculous inasmuch as: No political party by the name of National Liberation Movement exists at this time; I have not thought at any time of reassociating myself with those who turned their backs on me, and who were responsible for my persecution; I ought to challenge them for disloyalty and abetment of my persecutors, since they continued serving as their political advisors, and finally, although I do not pass judgment on them, there is a discernment in the conscience of the people of Guatemala, and in the conscience of the anticomunists, called Liberationists, which condemns the ruling echelon of the National Liberation Movement, and which gives me its backing and support." "Actually," he added, "judging a person is possible when this person is guilty of a deficiency or a crime which merits judgment, but in my case, the only thing that I have done is to speak for all the constituent elements of my party, and for all the people of Guatemala."

EL GRAFICO: "Is it true that you intend to form a political party?"

Sisniega Otero: Yes. I am preparing the registration of the National Democratic Movement Movimiento Democrático Nacional -- MDN, which will unite all men of democratic mind, that is to say the immense majority of us who have struggled in the ranks of various anticomunist sectors.

EL GRAFICO: "Are you associated in any way with a committee called PLAN?"

Sisniega Otero: I have no relation with any of the committees, groups or persons who are preparing to engage in political activity at this time. I appreciate the good intentions of those who, in one way or another, mention me as a possible answer in connection with their concerns, but I state

emphatically that I have no agreement, alliance or understanding with any organization or any person, and I ask my friends to maintain direct contact with me, as they have always done, because in order to represent Lionel Sisniega Otero there is only one answer: Lionel Sisniega Otero.

EL GRÁFICO: "There are reports that you are planning an alliance with Colonel Francisco Gordillo. Is that correct?"

Sisniega Otero: With Colonel Gordillo I have mentioned a slight friendship, and, beyond the fact that he is a very fine person, I do not have with him, nor do I expect to have in the future any alliance of a political character. I believe firmly that Guatemala ought to have a future government made up of men of profound convictions, and well defined goals, as the foundation of Guatemala and the Guatemalans, and who would represent a guarantee to their electors, and not an ideological swindle, such as the people of Guatemala have suffered so many times.

EL GRÁFICO: "Some people, nowadays very trustful of politics, are of the opinion that the Lionel Sisniega-Mario Sandoval dispute is more apparent than real."

Sisniega Otero: What we have here is a divorce which, as with a marriage, has separated the path along which we at one time would travel together. I have not the slightest intention of turning back. The experience was not pleasant, and I believe that in Guatemala there are better opportunities for association.

EL GRÁFICO: "Who then is the present leader of the Liberation movement?"

Sisniega Otero: There is no leader. Because the MLN leadership lost its bases, and these bases are coming together in the National Democratic Movement [MDN] of which I am the leader.

AL GRÁFICO: "This MDN which you mention, is it not the same party that functioned in the 1950-1960 decade?"

Sisniega Otero: It is not the same. There is a constant renovation among those of us who are involved in the political exercise, and it could not, by any means, bear the same characteristics, when evolution, through a self-improvement process, has placed us in the position of understanding the moment in which we are living, and urges us to accomplish the changes which are necessary.

EL GRÁFICO: "Then which are the forces which will rise up around your person as leader?"

Sisniega Otero: Our orientation will not be of the Left, nor of the Right, nor of the center, but "upward!", with the ideals of the people. We shall continue to be the sustainers of the capitalist democratic system, with absolute respect for private property. For the deity, the hierarchy, and the concrete and abstract value of a humankind which struggles to achieve harmony.

The forces which will come together under my banners will be composed basically of the tens of thousands of liberationists, swindled during many years of constant militancy, without fulfillment or hope. And finally these forces will include also Guatemalans who perceive in me the interpretation of the historic moment, the satisfaction of their own yearnings.

EL GRÁFICO: "Then you are prepared to fight the tendencies favored by Sandoval Alarcon?"

Sisniega Otero: No. I am not prepared to fight. I believe that, as the poet said, "without struggle, without anxiety, and without wailing...they will come"...and from what we have seen thus far I believe that the drainage will be total.

EL GRÁFICO: "What then is the fate of the MLN?"

Sisniega Otero: We Liberationists created it, and those who were liberated have destroyed it.

12383
CSO: 3248/12

PID LEADER SUGGESTS POSSIBLE ALLIANCE WITH MLN, FUN

Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRÁFICO in Spanish 17 Sep 83 pp 5.67

Interview with PID head Oscar Humberto Rivas; date and place not specified

Text Guatemala, 16 Sep--"The Institutional Democratic Party PID maintains that the Constitution of the Republic ought to be the product of the popular will," said the director general of the aforesaid organization, Attorney Oscar Humberto Rivas, in a statement to EL GRÁFICO.

EL GRÁFICO: "Then you believe that elections for a Constituent Assembly should be held first?"

Rivas: We believe that the road to bringing about genuine democracy in Guatemala should be that of holding elections for the National Constituent Assembly on an urgent basis. It would be the sure and firm step for arriving at a government of law which all Guatemalans yearn for. And when we propose that the convocation to elections should be at the earliest possible moment, we are not doing so for the purpose of limiting the concerns of other political groups, but we do so out of overriding concern for the interest of the country before that of any group, as has always been the standard of our conduct.

EL GRÁFICO: "But...what about the opportunity for new groups?"

Rivas: Every individual will have the liberty to demonstrate his political capacity in all fields of the competition.

EL GRÁFICO: "And regarding reforms of the political laws...what is your view?"

Rivas: PID believes that legislation should be enacted in the shortest, clearest and least complicated manner to form the Constituent Assembly within the framework of its own total sovereignty. Once this is done, it would be the Constituent Assembly which would concern itself with the working out of the other laws and regulations to arrive at general elections in the country. Because whatever legal standard which might be arranged at this time, no matter how good it may be, will have to be subject to the ratification of that sovereign constitutional organ.

EL GRÁFICO: "What is PID's opinion of the agenda approved by the political parties?"

Rivas: When we have spoken of this we maintained that the Constituent Assembly should be elected within a short time.

EL GRÁFICO: "Will PID enter into alliance with other political parties?"

Rivas: PID has talked with the coordinating committees of political parties. They have been conversations on possible rapprochement, and we do not rule out the possibility of some alliance.

EL GRÁFICO: "With which parties have you held conversations?"

Rivas: With the National Liberation Movement ~~PLN~~ and the Front of National Unity, FUN, and perhaps we may reach an agreement with another party in the future. But these talks were suspended upon considering in the first analysis that at the present time it is too premature to arrange alliances, and that is the reason we have left them in suspense. And we have concerned ourselves with taking care of the formalities vis-a-vis the Register of Citizens so that our organizations will be in order legally.

EL GRÁFICO: "When you mentioned the parties with which you have had discussions, it seems that all of them are of rightist tendency, within the concept of the political positions in the country."

Rivas: That is the philosophy of the Institutional Democratic Party--PID. Nowadays, we believe that the actual situation prevailing in Central America and in Guatemala of course, almost forces us not to move away from those positions, which reflect a latent necessity, in order not to separate ourselves from the path of a genuine democracy with a system of liberty.

EL GRÁFICO: "Then does PID consider that its rival in the upcoming political struggle will be the left?"

Rivas: PID believes that the left will be its opponent "A" in the near future.

EL GRÁFICO: "What does PID believe is the realistic path to a prompt return to constitutional government?"

Rivas: That all Guatemalans, without distinctions of any kind should understand once and for all that only the way of a government legitimately conceived, born of the popular will expressed at the ballot boxes, respected in turn by authority, would be the path toward the political stability of the country which we need so much in order to recover our image before the eyes of the world, and for the attainment of our yearnings for self-improvement within the framework of peace and justice with liberty.

EL GRÁFICO: "Who do you think should call the elections for the Constituent Assembly? -- the Chief of State of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal?"

Rivas: We believe that at this time General Oscar Humberto Mejía Victores has taken over the destiny and the responsibility of the country with energy and humility, and we also believe that he is a man of good intentions: those of solving the problems of the country, and that he is proceeding with impartiality, without political sectarianisms. Therefore all sectors of the country should cooperate so that the administration, which is temporary, of the present Head of Government may produce realistic solutions and that this may be accomplished without problems. Therefore, taking into account those intentions and the decision of the Chief of State to solve the problems of Guatemala, it is he who is the best person to announce to the people of Guatemala the calling of elections of deputies to the Constituent Assembly of the Republic.

12383
CSO: 3248/12

BRIEFS

HOTEL INDUSTRY IN CRISIS--The Guatemalan hotel industry is suffering a serious crisis and is passing through an extremely difficult situation, according to Mr. Mario Mendoza Hidalgo, director of the Guatemala Institute of Tourism. Specifically, Mendoza pointed out that there are one hundred fifty million quetzals in touristic infrastructure which are at serious risk. For that reason, he said, one of his tasks at INGUAT [Guatemala Institute of Tourism] will be to assist the hotel sector in every way possible, and this goal, he said, can be attained by an increase in Guatemalan tourism. The director of INGUAT made it clear that the programs worked out by the previous administration are not going to be interrupted. Definitely not, he added; this is a matter of commitments acquired by our country, and therefore they will be respected for the good name of Guatemala and for the future of national tourism. A special concern of his administration, said Mendoza Hidalgo, will be an all-out effort to aid the Guatemalan craftsmen, which will be developed in the final months of the present year 1983. Guatemalans will be made aware of the importance of understanding that the handicraft industry is one of our outputs, and that it deserves our attention. An effort will be made to celebrate the national handicraft industry at Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day of this year. The traditional Nativity Scenes, so Guatemalan and so ancient, should feature our handicrafts. What is Guatemalan is a Christmas Eve with poinsettia, cockspur, camomile and shepherds, with "mysteries" hand-crafted in Guatemala. Therefore, he added, Guatemalans will be urged this Christmas season to give preference to what is ours, especially to our handicrafts. [Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 18 Sep 83 p 27
12383

CSO: 3248/12

ECONOMISTS HOLD CONGRESS, DISCUSS NATIONAL, REGIONAL PROBLEMS

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 29 Aug 83 p 9

[Text] Over 400 economists of this country wound up their Fourth Regular Congress this weekend. They concluded that the basic commitment for Hondurans was to contribute to the search for a new, valid economic-political model for the nation and the Central American region.

"This model," the economists affirmed, "should be developed within the framework of cooperation, complementary planning and respect, and consideration for the peculiarities and potentialities inherent in each political unit of the area in order to create the necessary conditions for a true development process in Central America with ample grass-roots participation."

Industry

In addition, the resolutions of the congress state that "The economic, social, and political crisis of the region is the consequence of a historical process characterized by a profound and century-long social injustice manifested by the unequal distribution of income and the exclusion of the majority of the population from the economic mainstream.

"The aggravation of this crisis in the region," they said, "is the result of international economic and financial deterioration, whose negative repercussions are more deeply felt in our societies in view of our economic and political dependence abroad.

"The present situation of political and military tension in the region is unjust," they affirm, "because it not only blocks solutions to the crisis but on the contrary deepens it and makes it more complicated."

Historical

The Honduran economists called on the Central American peoples to "become the protagonists of their own destiny and find the necessary means to recover and use intelligently their national heritage through cooperation and national, regional, and extraregional organization."

In addition, they called on peoples to regain their independence for making political, economic, and social decisions, as well as to demand participation in the solution of crucial problems, in accordance with their own circumstances.

"We make an ardent plea to the Latin American peoples," says the document, "to make a commitment with their Central American brothers and strive to find solutions to the political, economic, and military crisis in a harmonious atmosphere of permanent dialogue and community of interests that will eliminate political tensions and the situation of military maneuvering."

Support for Contadora

The economists also resolved "to support the efforts to bring peace to the Central American region by the Contadora Group, which they consider a magnificent forum for putting an end to the shedding of the blood of the Central American people."

The various speakers at the congress stressed the necessity of bringing peace to the region as a prior condition to the inauguration of economic programs that would be more just and better reflect the circumstances of Central America. They also called for the clarification of cases of missing persons in Honduras and analyzed the problem of famine in the south.

Weary Models

"This is a crisis that affects every country in the world," the economists said in reference to the economic situation, which they described as the most severe in history.

"The crisis is global, in addition, because it involves economic, political, social, energy, ecological, and other problems; therefore, this phenomenon shows the fatigue of the economic models in operation in the countries of Central America," they stated.

Noting the Manifestations

For the country's economists the current crisis presents the following manifestations: "Decrease in production, unemployment, drop in per capita income which will be difficult to overcome in the coming years, the impossibility of financing the foreign debt and its respective servicing, the impossibility of continuing to finance the balance of payments deficits."

In analyzing foreign credit they point out that through this route appear "the arrival of inflation in this country, the reorientation of government programs, the evaluation of the currency, and the precarious social indices."

Central American Impact

"In Central America the crisis has been aggravated by political destabilization problems, but at all events the crisis would have appeared even in the absence of political problems because of the way the economic model has been functioning over many decades," they asserted.

"The Central American crisis has clearly exposed the enormous socioeconomic contradictions of the system and the growing rate of impoverishment that accompanies economic growth; in this sense the security of the system has been precarious for a long time because of the insecurity of the food supply for the majority of the population of the region."

Honduras Adrift

The economists concluded that "in Honduras special phenomena have been observed, such as the fiscal problem, the drop in exports, decreasing production, an increasing misery, etc.

"These phenomena," they warn, "are reflected even in government programs, which do not allow us to maintain the present state of affairs, and raise tax rates in order to balance the budget.

"For many years," they asserted, "government expenditures have been financed by foreign loans and by the foreign sector, but today these are in the millions, and this creates additional problems in servicing the same debts."

"Moreover, in regard to internal credit, it was determined that its contraction restricts liquidity for the private sector and creates greater difficulties for it," it indicated.

External Causes

The causes of the crisis are of both external and internal origin.

Among the former are the crucial events of the 1970's, such as the petroleum crisis, the worldwide recession of 1974-76, the recession of 1980 to the present, the deterioration in monetary exchange arrangements, increased costs of debt servicing, monetary restrictions, and credit limitations of the industrialized countries.

"Many of these phenomena," they explained, "created problems in the balance of payments of the underdeveloped countries, forcing them to finance their balance of payments through more foreign indebtedness, only to be trapped by changes in the debt composition executed by the private international bankers.

"To the extent that credit was restricted, this phenomenon helped cause increases in interest rates, aggravating the collapse of the underdeveloped countries," they maintained.

Internal Causes

The internal causes of the crisis, say the economists, "we see as the effect of the use of the very same foreign financing, brought about by the desire to avoid committing internal savings."

Several speakers at the congress felt that "the origin of the crisis should be sought in the very nature of the production model. They pointed out, for

example, that substitution of imports generated a broadening and diversification of the consumption of goods, which ruined the craftsmen.

"Governments created incentives for only one type of business, causing narrow and exclusive conditions. It was a model meant to protect the accumulation of capital and created at the behest of the multinational companies," they said.

"This phenomenon gave rise to the creation of a parasitic industrial sector maintained by the permanent transfer of the surplus of the truly productive sectors, such as agriculture," they affirmed.

Delicate Transition

Among the strategies discussed, the National Economists Congress pointed to the "necessity of making structural changes, but warned that the transition would be delicate and difficult, especially in regard to the obligatory changes in the distribution of property."

It was noted that many speakers at the congress even pointed to the need for changes in consumption habits and their diversion towards a demand for more vital products for the country and the region.

"This position reveals that the Central American countries have little viability individually for solving such problems, and thus the solution cannot be an individual one but a regional one," it was recommended.

The document concludes by stating that "basis for any strategy should be the satisfaction of basic necessities because in the end the most important part of any model is to improve the quality of life and the welfare of the inhabitants."

In addition, they add, "any recovery must depend basically on the actual efforts of the dynamic of the Honduran worker nationwide."

9015

CSO: 3248/1272

BRIEFS

NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE FOR WATER PROJECT--San Pedro Sula--The city, under the leadership of Mayor Juan Fernando Lopez, himself an engineer, will completely rebuild the water, sewer, and drainage systems, making them adequate up to the year 2000. This will be done with technical help from Nor Plan, a Norwegian consulting firm. The agreement was signed yesterday in the conference room of city hall. Representing the foreign firm at the ceremony were Obdwin C. Skalas, project manager, and Kare Kalleberg, sanitation specialist, and for the city, the mayor, Hector Zuniga, manager of the Municipal Water Division [DIMA], whose responsibility the project will be, Attorney Toribio Aguilera, municipal counselor, Attorney Jose Ramon Aguilar, representative, and councilmen Mejia Batres, Alberto Fernandez Paredes, Adan R. Zelaya, Margarita Zelaya de Elvir, and Eduardo Murillo. The project will cost approximately 44 million and financing will be done through the World Bank, the English [sic] Economic Community, the Norwegian government, and the city of San Pedro Sula. Mayor Juan Fernando Lopez stated that the project, in addition to improving the present water and sewage system, would remedy the problem experienced by the people of San Pedro Sula in the rainy season when the streets are completely flooded and some areas are covered by the debris left by the flooding. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Aug 83 p 8] 9015

EL CAJON DAM PROJECT--The dam that will hold approximately 6,000,000 cubic meters of water is 382 meters long and 7 wide; the foundation, on which work was recently begun, will be constructed almost totally of concrete. Raul Flores Guillen, one of the principal engineers on the project, said the dam would be built in the shortest time possible so that damage resulting from the rains of September and October would have the minimum effect on the construction. He also said no problems had occurred in the construction program and therefore the project would be finished in the time allotted, that is, by October 1985. Eight turbines will be installed to generate electrical energy; however, in the first stage only 4 will be functioning. This will be sufficient to produce 300 megawatts. Production will double when the remaining turbines go into operation. Regarding the construction of the dam, the program directors had initially allotted \$11 million. However, unforeseen circumstances have been encountered which have involved an investment of \$50 million, Flores Guillen stated. The National Electrical Energy Enterprise [ENEE] has included in this amount the contracts for the clearing of the dam site, which presents such problems as the felling of the thousands of trees that grow in the area to be inundated, approximately 90 square kilo-

meters. The costs of immediate transport of this lumber are very high, and it is probable that the trees will be left under water. In this regard, the directors of the program have stated that the inhabitants of the area may use the lumber, but they have observed that it will not be possible to extract all of this natural resource and therefore a good deal of organic residue will remain submerged. [Excerpt] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 29 Aug 83 p 47] 9015

CSO: 3248/1272

WORKERS' UNION TAKES ISSUE WITH ANTI-UNION ATTITUDES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] Assistant Island Supervisor of the National Workers Union, Senator Clive Dobson, has said that the trade union movement will not be deterred by any undermining of the movement's historical role but stood resolute in its commitment to the nation-building process.

Addressing the meeting of the union's Region 3 Delegates Council, held at Mount Alvernia High School last week Thursday, Senator Dobson decried what he termed as "a snobbish disregard for (the trade union movement's) historic role" which he said was being practised by those who would like to subdue the [as published]

He said "let nobody feel that we will be frightened, intimidated, bullied or otherwise deterred from our present and future roles."

The trade union movement, Senator Dobson said was moulded out of the fire of the 1938 worker uprising. Many have come to believe that the militant fire had waned to a flickering glow and were bent on taking advantage of this seeming dormancy to further smoulder the movement's activity, he said.

This was evident, Mr Dobson said, of those who he said used delaying tactics and other devices to cramp the cause of the unions while giving the impression that strikes and other forms of industrial actions were unpatriotic.

"But we have been vindicated by objective analyses of the situation," the Senator said, referring to the World Economic Survey--1981-82 published by the United Nations.

He continued "History will further exonerate us from much of the blame of the economic ills and will indeed point an accusing finger at those responsible for deliberately undermining the economy."

In examining the economic situation in Jamaica, the trade unionist blamed the government for creating what he called an artificial economic upturn which it could not maintain and which benefitted only a few in the society. "For two years they basked in the electronic glows of videos, and lounged in the deep cushioned seats of their Volvos, while the manufacturing sector starved for foreign exchange," Mr Dobson said.

The rude awakening, he said, was the introduction of the parallel market which "came like a bucket of iced water on a sleeping man." This, Mr Dobson stated was in effect calling on all sectors of the economy and working people to pay for the "orgy" of consumerism enjoyed by some over the past two years.

The exclusion of the trade unions from the celebrations of the Nation's 21st anniversary, Senator Dobson alleged, should not be taken lightly as the trade unions played an important role in the political development of the country.

"I therefore consider it a gross insult to the trade union movement of Jamaica that the government of the day did not see it fit to involve the movement in the preparation of our 21st year of independence celebrations," he said.

Senator Dobson called on the government to recognise the role of trade unions in the nation building process by including the movement more in the decision-making process.

He called for the formation of a tri-partite Consultative Committee by the government inclusive of its representatives along with those of the trade union movement and the private sector, to monitor the economy and make proposals in promoting growth and create job opportunities. Through this medium the trade union movement would have a direct hand in including the workers voice in the legislative machinery.

Other speakers at the meeting were Council chairman, Mr Errol Lawson and Mr Earl Wedderburn, Regional Organisor for Western Jamaica.

CSO: 3298/027

PSUM HEAD ON DIFFERENCES AIRED AT PARTY CONGRESS

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 11 Sep 83 'Pagina Uno" supplement pp 1, 2

[Pablo Gomez commentary: "Second PSUM Congress; Three Great Party Tasks"]

[Excerpt] The congress precisely identified the three major tasks of the party: development of a broad mass movement which is independent of the government and the bourgeoisie and not incorporated into any political party; the building of a mass revolutionary socialist workers party; and leftist unity. These three great tasks are, in the opinion of the congress, the factors which determine the continuing activities of the party. They are not matters which may be solved by one simple action, so they should be taken into account in all actions, in all struggles.

The Second Congress set a course, defined objectives and tasks. Why then has it been said to have been a step backward?

Problems and Disagreements

The Unified Socialist Party of Mexico [PSUM] also took up internal problems, and some disagreements became apparent. However, to be able to judge them calmly, one must analyze the party's general situation.

The PSUM did not only join different socialist currents but also different political leadership groups. These groups did not dissolve immediately but attempted to merge into a single leadership body. What happened in practice was that they joined into a compartmented leadership which, although it made significant progress in working out a common political line, did not succeed completely in forming a new directing apparatus nor was it able to discover a means of bridging the gap between the ideological disagreements inherent in this party.

At the time of the congress, which included the election of a new central committee, that compartmentalization, that absence of a well-integrated directing group, was clearly evident. At the same time, some ideological principles reappeared which are deeply rooted within certain segments of the left and which are in contradiction with basic PSUM tenets: Marxism-Leninism in opposition to the official party position which considers its theory to be that of scientific socialism; dictatorship of the proletariat against the

accepted concept of democratic workers' power; and all that is involved in the polemic which this implies.

However, the congress did not result in a deepening of the compartmentation of the leadership, nor were the ideological divergencies exacerbated. The PSUM upheld the basic tenets upon which its unity rests and it appointed a Central Committee consisting of experienced cadre.

Following the Second Congress, it will be possible to attempt to form a broad directing nucleus with participation of all the cadre coming from the various parties which joined together. Instead of maintaining relations between the old leadership groups, it will now be possible to establish relations between individual members of the same political persuasion. That is what many are actively seeking and what, to a great extent, the congress accomplished.

In an unobjectionable way, the congress resolved to open the discussion on its growth policy and on the functioning of its basic organizational elements and middle level leadership elements. All agree that the PSUM should be a party of organized militants who exercise their rights and carry out their obligations. The problem which remains to be solved is how to find a way for the party organizations to be integrated and at the same time to be capable of bringing in a large number of militant members. The party must also clarify how it wants to grow and basically from what sectors. The organization conference will be held within a few months.

The only disagreement mentioned in the Central Committee's report concerned the political rights of ministers of religious cults. The report contained a criticism--shared by all--of clergymen who act in an organized way in support of the PAN [National Action Party], the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and the PDM [Mexican Democratic Party]. But it also states that under such conditions, they cannot support the granting of full and legal political rights to priests. This stand which won a majority of just 20 votes was opposed by the argument that we should support the principle of political rights for all citizens, including priests, on an equal basis.

However, some commentaries on the congress stated that Jacobin positions have gained ground in the PSUM. This affirmation is entirely gratuitous and could only arise from a subjective analysis provoked by defeat in the voting after a discussion which was certainly hasty. In fact for the first time since its formation, PSUM officially proclaimed its secularism by stating that it does not encourage or oppose any religion, by assenting to full religious freedom and by openly proposing a dialogue with practicing believers including the clergy.

Thus the discussion is centered somewhere other than on the debate between Jacobins and Marxists. The clergy's function as a social institution should be separate from the political struggle as a part of its separation for that aspect of the state. This is an accepted point. The question to consider at all times is whether the full political rights of the priests should be translated into the exercise of their individual democratic rights or into the formation of a virtual church party dominated by a reactionary hierarchy,

hostile to popular and democratic causes. The principle of political equality of all citizens which is admitted, accepted and defined by the workers' movement and by the Marxists, cannot under any circumstances be translated into automatically granting rights to the ministers of religious cults. At least it requires the analysis of its significance from the democratic point of view. The rights of the priests could be a democratic cause on the basis of equally democratic action by the clergy, but could be a threat to the democratic process, could open the door for the clergy to become a fully legalized antidemocratic, antipopular political corporation.

It is true and clear that the priests intervene in political struggles and reactionary hierarchies attempt to repress the leftist priests--certainly not because they lack recognized rights. All of this imposes on the socialists the duty to take appropriate action. But it is another thing to raise the banner of the clergy's political rights, to legalize their corporate, hierarchical, reactionary and antidemocratic behavior in a country and at a time in which denial of political rights of the people is one of the fundamental causes of the lack of democracy including the lack of it in the church.

The debate will go on but, under any circumstances, one must recognize that this is not among the things which "ruin" a revolutionary party nor does it prevent the party from being a democratic force.

It has also been said that the text of the Central Committee report on the question of the rights of priests, as well as other matters, was the result of negotiations and concessions for the sake of unity. This view is at variance with reality. At the Second Congress, no negotiation was carried on because of a threat to unity; this was the assumption in all the discussions and proposals.

The PSUM congress displayed to us a party in the process of unification. It was unrealistic to believe that 1-1/2 years was enough time to complete a unique political structure. This fact should be taken into account in judging the congress and the PSUM and especially in order to take steps now which will make possible a more complete organic and political integration. The party rank and file demands this; its leaders are obliged to carry forward the process of strengthening organization and growth within the framework of the struggle to which all the party members are committed.

9204
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PMT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REELECTS CASTILLO, CONCLUDES BUSINESS

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 12 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Sara Lovera and Emilio Lomas]

[Text] The PMT [Mexican Workers Party] national assembly which closed yesterday, reelected Heriberto Castillo to the chairmanship of the national committee, approved his report and changes in statutes and the declaration of principles which, according to spokesman Roberto Santiago, explicitly eliminate "government pretexts for giving the PMT conditional registration in 1985." The assembly also agreed to end the talks on union with the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] and to expel Demetrio Vallejo from the party.

The spokesman said that the 3-day assembly "was the calmest held since the founding of the PMT." He also said that the reorientation of the PMT to increase worker and peasant participation will allow it to grow.

During the assembly the approximately 500 participants modified some of the party's methods of operation, and they approved the creation of three new secretariats. Although there were changes in the national committee, "these were not in key positions."

The PMT modified its declaration of principles and explicitly promised to respect the constitution--which, he said, contains aspects of the workers' struggle--and the laws and institutions which emanate from it as well as the rights of the rural and urban workers and all citizens.

The spokesman said that the PMT collective directorate has only "division of labor to make the party functional but without a bossism. We are the only party which in its principles specifically promises to struggle against male chauvinism and sexual harassment. We support women's freedom to become or not to become pregnant and the decriminalization of abortion." The new principles include struggle against child abuse and the abandonment and exploitation of the aged.

The following are the members of the PMT national committee: Heriberto Castillo Martinez, chairman; Jose Alvarez Icaza, organization secretary; Martin Roque Sanchez, secretary of finance; Porfirio Martinez Gonzalez, secretary of labor and labor disputes; Jorge Villamil Rivas, secretary of political education;

Rosalio Hernandez Beltran, secretary of workers relations; Heriberto Meza Campuzano, secretary of peasant relations; Carlos Mendoza Aupetit, secretary of foreign relations; Alicia Salmeron Castro, secretary of women's relations; Rosendo Marin Diaz, secretary of youth relations; Javier Santiago Castillo, secretary of press and propaganda; Araceli Dorantes Gil, secretary of minutes, agreements and statistics.

9204

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NEW CUERNAVACA BISHOP REVIEWS STATE OF DIOCESE

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 11 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Teresa Gil]

[Text] The report of the new Cuernavaca bishop, published by the episcopate, points out that Bishop Sergio Mendez Arceo's ecclesiastical renewal left its mark on the religious life of Morelos state and unified the clergy but "disconcerted" certain sectors of the population who still hold on to traditional positions. At the same time it was announced that the new work style in the diocese will be based on the Puebla Celam documents and John Paul II's positions.

Although Juan Jose Posadas Ocampo, new bishop of Cuernavaca, prepared his report last June, the episcopate distributed it just this week.

The document is an extensive analysis of the situation in the diocese after 20 years under the influence of Mendez Arcio, who developed, according to the report, the structural guidelines for the Second Vatican Council which talk about bringing the church up-to-date. Ocampo takes note of the changes made by Mendez Arceo of whom he says, "He is venerated with respect and affection." At the same time he says that in the diocese there are both positive and negative factors but "the overall view is an image of a living and active diocese. It is a diocese which seeks ecclesiastical maturity taking a reflexive and critical attitude while ready to defend its positions as accomplished successes, overcoming difficulties and crises. It is a diocese which is characterized as being in the vanguard of the renewal set in motion by the council." In talking about the grassroots ecclesiastical communities which have developed greatly in Morelos the bishop commented that they "seem too involved in politics." He explained that the priests' reports indicate that these communities accept the application of Marxism in their day-by-day work and that they identify with many Marxists who gave their lives in the popular struggle.

The report is based on nine religious principles, in the seventh of which it is stated, "It is absurd to motivate evangelization by hatred and violence." The panoramic description of the diocese, meanwhile, is based on the physical description of it which includes all of Morelos State with an area of 4,991 square kilometers and a population of 1,176,826 inhabitants, 89.4 percent of whom are Catholics.

This diocese which, counting Posadas Ocampo, already has had eight bishops, has for the last 20 years been under the influence of Mendez Arcio's work. He "insisted on an authentic choice for the poor, advocated a theology of liberation, especially along Latin American lines, and a commitment of solidarity with the aspirations of Central America for sociopolitical liberation."

He adds that beside the disconcertment felt in some ecclesiastical circles--such as the "traditionalists," recently excommunicated by John Paul II--the new liturgy introduced by the bishop "gives the impression that little attention was given to popular religiousness."

In this regard, he criticized the fact that the previous bishop eliminated religious images ("saints") replacing them with biblical texts, as well as changes made in the music. He says, "the purpose should be to make participation something vital and shared and this cannot be exactly achieved by introducing changes, innovations and so forth."

He also criticizes Mendez Arceo's ecumenical work for, as he says, the re-unification of the Catholic and Protestant Churches which resulted, according to the text, in "proliferation of sects and in proselytizing to affiliate persons to leave the Catholic faith and join another denomination." But he admits that "the number of Catholics on hand is proof of a sincere, deep-rooted faith which incidentally often needs to be cleansed by a really thorough evangelization."

In his analysis, the bishop of Cuernavaca constantly refers to the reports of the priests and their interpretation by the church during the past administration of the diocese, and he refers to the writings of about 400 clergymen in which are specified "interventions in the diocese in various social conflicts, promises go Guatemalan refugees and an episcopal decree of excommunication against torturers in 1981."

In his pastoral objective, based on the Puebla documents, the bishop announces a return to a more traditional liturgy respecting the established rules and eliminating changes made by Mendez Arceo to make liturgic services more accessible.

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